

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | April 15, 2024

Skyhawk Rodeo hosts annual Spring College Rodeo



Sophomore Ryanne Frecker shows her skills in barrel racing at the annual UTM Spring College Rodeo held April 11-13 at the New McWherter Agricultural Complex. The Skyhawks placed second out of nine teams on the women's side of the intercollegiate competition, while the men's rodeo team finished in sixth place out of 11 teams.

ROTC building named in honor of alumnus

The ROTC Building at UT Martin was officially named April 12 in honor of UT Martin alumnus retired Lt. Gen. Dennis D. Cavin.

Cavin graduated from UT Martin in 1970 with a degree in agriculture and was commissioned as a distinguished military graduate in air defense artillery.

During the naming ceremony held adjacent to the building,

Cavin expressed his gratitude for the honor.

"It is more than humbling for an old farm boy that grew up not too far from this campus to be standing here today," he said.

The ceremony was attended by his daughter, Brandie Cole; her husband, Jason; and their two children, Landon and Riley, all of Gallatin, where Cavin lives. Also in attendance were several

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Retired Lt. Gen. Dennis D. Cavin, a 1970 UTM alumnus, poses next to the new sign at the ROTC center.

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Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance, presented “A Comparison of Risk: Adjusted Returns and Profitability Between Ethisphere’s Ethical Companies and Their Sectors” at the 2024 Student-Managed Investment Fund Consortium spring conference on March 30.

His co-authors are **Dr. Nell Gullett**, professor of finance, and **Dr. Laura Hatch**, assistant professor of accounting.

The Ethisphere Institute has recognized the World’s Most Ethical Companies since 2006.

Its website states, “Good ethics is good business.” It asserts investors, employees and other



Haddad

stakeholders value companies with strong ethical practices for good reason. These companies outperform the competition, are better places to work and make a positive impact on their



Gullett

communities. To test whether it is beneficial to invest in ethical companies, the risk-adjusted returns and profitability of companies on the Ethisphere list are compared



Hatch

to their sectors for the 2012-23 time period. The results are mixed with approximately half of the companies outperforming their sectors and the remainder underperforming their sectors.



Nappo

Dr. Daniel Nappo, professor of Spanish, attended the 54th annual PCA-ACA National Conference, which was held March 27-30 in Chicago, Illinois (found [at this link](#)).

Nappo chaired a panel dedicated to Latin American literature and film and presented a paper entitled, “Three Classic Films of Emilio Fernández and the Mexican Revolution.”

Dr. Jamye Long and **Dr. Cooper Johnson** presented “Exploring the Relationship Between Flexible Course Design, Course Delivery and Student Success” at the Society of Business, Industry and Economics Conference held in Miramar Beach, Florida.

Long and Johnson’s presented

work aims to help faculty understand the teacher-learner relationship with the current generation of students and assist faculty in knowing what factors in flexible course design and delivery are appreciated, helpful and wanted by students and how they impact student success in their classes.

Dr. Laura G. Foltz, special assistant to the vice chancellor for finance and administration for strategic initiatives, served as the finance evaluator on two Southern Association for Colleges and Schools Committee On Colleges (SACSCOC) Off-Site Review Committees Feb. 26-29 and April 1-4.

Foltz has served on seven accreditation reviews as a finance evaluator for SACSCOC; cumulatively, she has reviewed 11 institutions.



Foltz



Long



Johnson

View photos online at utm.edu/photo

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Dr. Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, was a co-presenter on the session “Finding Funds: Grant, Donor, and Fundraising Idea Exchange” at the 2024 annual Conference of the Tennessee Library Association, held April 24 in Franklin.

Nordberg also co-hosted a meeting of the Academic Libraries Roundtable and serves as the West Tennessee representative on the roundtable’s executive board.



Nordberg

Dr. Ben Le, associate professor of accounting, presented two papers at the 2024 American Accounting Association Southwest Conference on April 11-12.

The co-authors are **Dr. Paula Moore**, interim chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science, **Dr. Laura Hatch**, assistant professor of accounting, and Dr. Donna Paul of Washington State University-Vancouver.

The first paper was entitled “Earnings Management and the NOx Budget Trading Program.”

The Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) Budget Trading Program was enacted by the U.S. government in an effort to mitigate impacts on climate change of air pollutants and ozone transportation among manufacturing firms in selected states.

The paper examined whether firms used earnings management as a response to the shock to their cost structures of compliance with this program. Results showed that firms increased real earnings management and accrual earnings management.

The second paper was entitled “Tax Avoidance over Time and the Effects of Corruption



Le



Moore

and Government Ownership: International Evidence.”

This study examined tax avoidance over time in response to changes in tax rates, the presence of corruption and the impact of government ownership.

These papers can be found through this [link](#).



Bell

Erica Bell, executive director of Regional Centers and Online Programs, and **Dr. Wes Totten**, chair for the Department of Agriculture, Geoscience and Natural Resources, recently presented with Dr. Stephen Milligan (president of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Crump) at the Tennessee Higher Education



Totten

Commission Transfer Grand Division meeting on March 5 at the University of Memphis Lambuth campus.

The presentation highlighted the UTM/TCAT Crump Articulation Agreement in Farming Operations Technology, as THEC works to expand and improve transfer student outcomes.

UTM Police Officer **Brianna Jones** recently graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy Basic Police School.

In her 12 weeks at the state’s premier training academy, Jones learned basic law enforcement skills, Tennessee law and physical fitness.

Jones also received the Brian Grisham Legacy Award. She was recognized by her peers for her outstanding character, compassion, courage and



Jones

positive attitude.

Jones is a graduate of the UTM Criminal Justice Program.

Read more UT Martin news
at news.utm.edu

Captain's Challenge broadens donor numbers

The 10th annual Captain's Challenge has come and gone, and university officials are calling it a great success.

The Challenge took place April 3 from midnight to midnight, and a main focus of the annual gifting drive this

year was increasing the number of people making gifts to the university.

This year, there were 1,441 donors from 40 states in the Captain's Challenge, 20.1% above the goal of 1,200 donors and the greatest number of donors ever in a single Captain's Challenge.

Those donors gifted \$428,527 to UT Martin.

Matt Borden, the associate director of annual giving, said that funding total ranks third among single-year donations made in the 10-year history of the Captain's Challenge, and added that the number of donors is equally impressive.

"Especially coming off an extremely successful RISE Campaign last year, the increased donor count is critical to long-term UTM fundraising success," he said. "More donors engaged with UTM helps immensely with areas such as programming and event planning.

"Focusing on donors rather than dollars this year was strategic. We looked to grow our overall annual giving base, and that was achieved with 200-plus new donors."

The RISE fundraising campaign was announced at the Skyhawks' football game against Samford on Sept. 11, 2021, and set its goal at \$175 million. The campaign - the fourth fundraising campaign in the university's history - surpassed that goal in June 2023.

The Office of Intercollegiate



Borden

Athletics and the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences brought in the most donations, but several other colleges and areas were big winners as well.

Those areas that reached more than 100% of their donor goals were the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (158%), the College of Humanities and Fine Arts (108%), the Paul Meek Library (108%), the College of Business and Global Affairs (104%) and the Black Alumni Council (104%).

The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences had top numbers with \$110,930 in gifted

donations and had 278 donors, second only to the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics' 357 donors who gifted \$103,065 to that office.

"We had tremendous support across a multitude of campus units," Borden said. "Seeing these 100% achievements in donors is fantastic!"

Matching funds and donation challenges helped to keep the day energetic and fun to follow.

"This was a tremendous Captain's Challenge," Borden said. "We exceeded our donor goal and saw quality engagement across all social media platforms.

"The donor growth cannot be understated, as it positively impacts future fundraising efforts as well as event planning and engagement possibilities."

To make a donation to the university, department or program, visit giving.utm.edu. Prospective donors can select from several areas of support at that site.

For more information about giving to UT Martin, call the UT Martin Alumni Association's Martin Office at 731-881-3611.

This Week's Skyhawk Home Events

Tuesday, April 16

- Softball vs. Rhodes College, 3 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field

Friday, April 19

- *Beach volleyball vs. Eastern Illinois, 10 a.m., Skyhawk Beach Volleyball Complex (near the tennis courts on Pat Head Summitt Drive)
- *Beach volleyball vs. Morehead State, 6 p.m., Skyhawk Beach Volleyball Complex

Saturday, April 20

- *Beach volleyball vs. Tennessee Tech, noon, Skyhawk Beach Volleyball Complex
- *Softball vs. Morehead State, 1 p.m. (dh), Bettye Giles Softball Field
- *Beach volleyball vs. Lindenwood, 6 p.m., Skyhawk Beach Volleyball Complex

Sunday, April 21

- *Softball vs. Morehead State, 1 p.m., Bettye Giles, Softball Field

* - conference competition
Full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com.



Read more UT Martin news at news.utm.edu

CAVIN from PAGE 1

friends and representatives of the military and from the UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geoscience and Natural Resources.

A self-proclaimed son of a sharecropper, Cavin told the audience that he did not plan a career in the Army. He said he didn't even consider going to college until the spring of his senior year in high school.

"I got married as a junior in 1968," he said. "About six months prior to graduation and getting commissioned in the United States Army, (his late wife) Mary turned to me and said, 'What's this Army thing?' I said, 'Hon, don't worry about it. It's for only two years.'

"I used that line 16 more times over a 34-year career. Like I said, I did not plan to make the Army a career. I stayed. Why did I stay in the Army? Because of people – they're called soldiers – remarkable soldiers."

Chancellor Yancy Freeman introduced Cavin to the crowd gathered to honor him.

"Lt. Gen. Cavin is a legend and living proof that UT Martin produces incredible people who do incredible things," Freeman said. "He represents a community of soaring – I was going to say 'Skyhawks,' but I know he was a Pacer – who deeply care about others and give selflessly of his time and resources."

Cavin served as a career Army air defense artillery officer in short range and high-altitude



Posing with signage for the newly named Dennis D. Cavin ROTC Center at UT Martin are (L-R) Chancellor Yancy Freeman; Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Cavin; and Lt. Col. Bernard House, professor of military science and leader of the ROTC Skyhawk Battalion.

air defense artillery for more than 20 years. He has served in command and leadership positions from platoon to Army major commands.

In 1996, Cavin earned his first star in becoming a brigadier general and served as the deputy commanding general and later command general of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center until 2000.

Cavin served as the commanding general of U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky. His final command was as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Accessions Command at

Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Cavin was also the architect of several major Army outreach programs, including the U.S. Army High School All-American Bowl football game and the U.S. Army NASCAR and National Hot Rod Association programs connecting the Army to the target recruiting communities.

Cavin joined Lockheed Martin in October 2004 after completing 34 years of Army service.

In 1999, Cavin was honored with UT Martin's Outstanding Alumni Award, and in 2015, the Nashville Business Journal listed him as one of the initial

22 Outstanding Nashville Veterans.

The Skyhawk Battalion includes ROTC programs at UT Martin, Murray State University, Freed-Hardeman University of Henderson, Bethel University of McKenzie, Lane University, Union University and Jackson State Community College. The battalion consists of 96 cadets this year. The ROTC program was established in 1952.

For more information about the ROTC program at UT Martin, call recruitment officer Jan Bass at 731-298-1583 or email House at bhouse5@utm.edu.

You Tell Me

- **Question** – What kind of construction is currently underway on University Street?
- **Answer** – This construction is installation of the new light poles in the median. This is a five-year project that includes two years waiting on an electrical panel to be installed. Poles will have double headlamps and complement existing lighting. These poles will look very similar to the lone existing pole in in the median that is a small cell tower installed by Crown Castle. If all goes according to schedule, the installation should be complete in 14 days..

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

It's all in the wrist

Freshman Anna Wilder demonstrates skill and determination by successfully roping a calf during the Spring College Rodeo at the UTM Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex April 11-13. The UTM women's rodeo team finished with 350 points, second only to the University of West Alabama's 530 points. The men's team placed sixth with 215 points. Missouri Valley College won the men's competition with 840 points. The UT Martin Spring College Rodeo is one of the most popular events to take place on campus, bringing in teams from several states to compete in the annual varsity competition.



Investment students take first at Florida competition

The UT Martin TVA Investment Challenge students placed first in the portfolio poster competition at the 2024 Student Managed Investment Fund Consortium spring conference in Cape Coral, Florida, March 29-30.

The students in the poster competition included senior finance major Alex Bowler, senior finance major Jake Harrison, senior finance major Courtney Pemberton and junior finance major Mackenzie Smith.

The students created and presented a poster that detailed the UTM TVA portfolio's 2023 performance, top holdings, investment allocation and investment philosophy. Each student fielded questions from faculty at other universities, other student-managed investment fund participants and industry professionals.

The student poster team received recognition at the



Shown with the UT Martin TVA Investment Challenge team's \$600 first-place cash prize are (L-R) professor of finance Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, UTM students Jake Harrison, Courtney Pemberton, Mackenzie Smith and Alex Bowler and Dr. Tarek Zaher of Indiana State University.

conference for their award as well as a \$600 monetary prize.

Dr. Brittany Cole, assistant

professor of finance, and Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance, advise the UTM

TVA Investment Challenge program, and both attended the conference.

Honors Day held Sunday in Watkins Auditorium

The annual Honors Day program was held Sunday, April 14, at Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. The guest speaker was Dr. Kathy Barker (center), the senior scientist at the Rogers Lab Team at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis. Also shown are Dr. Andy Lewter (left), the vice chancellor for student affairs, and Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.



UT Martin hosts annual ELLI Conference April 2-4

Students in the advanced business communication class taught by Dr. Lajuan Davis in the College of Business and Global Affairs helped plan, organize, execute and present at the April 2-4 experiential-learning conference (ELLI) held on the UT Martin campus.

The students’ presentation at the conference was “The Flipped Classroom: Experiential Learning in a Student-Led Classroom.”

The session was moderated by Dr. Dexter Davis, who co-chaired the conference with Dr. Lajuan Davis.

The capstone class for business communication students is project-based, and students help choose and design the class projects they undertake for the semester.

The students decided to help work on the conference in addition to creating the CBGA



Those taking part in the April 2-4 ELLI Conference held at UT Martin included (L-R) Cheyenne Stewart, Mason Vancleave, Markedra Mann, Maya Rash and Noah Gamble.

Information Hub in SharePoint for all of the students in CBGA to access needed information with a single click.

As their last project for the semester, the students will write a research paper concerning their experiential-learning

projects that will be published in the online ELLI Educational Journal, of which Dr. Lajuan Davis is editor..

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