

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | April 29, 2024

HAVING A SENIOR MOMENT



Graduating seniors take part in the traditional Senior Walk on April 25, starting at the patio between the Boling University Center and Paul Meek Library, into the Quad and over to the Johnson EPS Building, past Brehm Hall and to the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Faculty and staff lined the sidewalks to give the graduates a warm sendoff.

Two commencement services to be held May 4

UT Martin will hold spring commencement exercises during two in-person ceremonies Saturday, May 4, 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.

Cary E. Vaughn, CEO and president of Love Worth Finding Ministries Inc. of Memphis, will be the commencement speaker at both ceremonies. About 570 total graduates are expected to participate in the two ceremonies.

Chancellor Yancy Freeman will preside over the two ceremonies and confer degrees. Carey Whitworth, vice president for government relations and advocacy, will represent the UT System. 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, business and global affairs, and humanities and fine arts.

The 2 p.m. ceremony will also include undergraduate and graduate-degree candidates and feature graduates from the colleges of education, health and behavioral sciences, and engineering and natural science.

Each ceremony will be livestreamed at www.facebook.com/utmartin and www.youtube.com/utm+*****artin.

The ceremonies will be archived on YouTube for later viewing.

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

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Busch

Heidi Busch, associate professor for the Paul Meek Library; **Candice McCloud**, admissions counselor for the Office of Admissions; **Courtney Roberts**, administrative specialist for the Office of



McCloud

Research, Outreach and Economic Development; and **Cayce Wainscott**, administrative assistant in the Office of Educational Studies, recently graduated from the 2024 Weakley County Leadership



Roberts

Program. Leadership Weakley County membership is limited to 20 participants per year who are among several prospective members nominated by UT Martin each year.



Wainscott

The program is described by the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce as “an enriching experience to those who are willing to make the commitment required to complete the program.”

Dr. Mark Farley, assistant professor of finance, and **Dr. Lajuan Davis**, professor of business communication in the College of Business and Global Affairs, recently published an article entitled, “Teaching Ethics in Business Education and Finance: Challenges and Concerns” in the International Journal of Education Research.

The article offers discussion on the standards for ethics utilized in the fields of economics and finance.



Farley

Ethics standards are not always found or easily identifiable in



Davis

business education or in the wider business arena. More

efforts need to be exercised in creating standards that can be adapted to the classroom or used by firms to ensure that students and employees understand the implications and outcomes associated with utilizing proper ethics in their daily processes and procedures.

The article concludes by offering readers a template that can be used to promulgate standards and integrate teaching business ethics in an introductory finance course.

Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance at the College of Business and Global Affairs, presented his co-authored paper with Dr. Sam Hakim titled “[Did the U.S. Federal Reserve Policy Harm the Stability of the GCC Banks?](#)” at the Economic Research Forum’s 30th annual conference April 21-23 in Rabat, Morocco.

Haddad is a member of the Economic Research Forum Board of Trustees and is the finance committee chairperson. At the conference, Haddad



Haddad

attended the following plenary presentations and faculty

development activities:

- Panoramic political economy perspectives of Middle East and North Africa countries,
- Prospects in the Middle East for peaceful resolution of conflict – the generational disruptor and impediment to development in the region,
- Sustainable development goals stimulus to deliver agenda 2030,
- AI and future of work,
- Relocalization and regional cooperatives in an increasingly shock-prone global economy.

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or question
to [addenda@
utm.edu!](mailto:addenda@utm.edu)**

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Baker

Dr. Patrick Baker, associate professor of business law, and **Dr. Paula Moore**, professor of accounting and business law and interim chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science, co-authored an article in the University of Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture and Natural



Moore

Resources Law titled “The Federally Regulated Decline, Rebirth, and Decline of the United States Hemp Industry.” Other authors were **Karen Scanlon** of Scottsdale, Arizona, a 2022 graduate of UT Martin, and **Henry Webb**, professor of business and legal studies at Palm Beach Atlantic University in Florida.

Dr. Saman Sargolzaei, assistant professor of engineering, has been accepted into the 2024 cohort of National Science Foundation’s Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation’s Game Changer Academies for Advancing Research Innovation.

Game Changer Academies is within the National Science Foundation’s engineering directorate, building on the National Science Foundation’s agenda for rewarding innovation and transformative science by focusing on improving panel discussions, ameliorating a variety of forms of cognitive bias and examining the meaning of “high risk/high reward” in an engineering context with a commitment to deliberative democracy related to research funding: fair and reasonable



Sargolzaei

discussion of competing arguments and viewpoints to secure the public good. The Division of Civil, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Innovation supports the integration of research and education in all of its programs and funds potentially transformative research in a number of areas.

UTM magazine places third at Southern Literary Festival

The Spring 2023 issue of The Switch Literature and Fine Arts magazine, written and produced by undergraduate students at UT Martin, placed third in the undergraduate literary magazine category at the Southern Literary Festival held April 4-6 at the University of Mississippi.

Dr. Maari Carter, assistant

professor of English and faculty adviser to the magazine, said this was not the first placement for a UT Martin magazine.

Carter said about 50 students made about 95 submissions to the 2023 magazine, adding that there were more than 50 students who made 120 submissions to the 2024 issue of The Switch.

She added that the number of submissions to the magazine has risen drastically in the past two years due to promotional efforts.

“I think a few things contributed to the increased visibility of the magazine over the past two years,” she said. “We created a position for a social media editor, which allowed us to publicize the magazine’s submission windows online through various social media platforms.



Shown with their certificate for placing third in the undergraduate literary magazine category at the Southern Literary Festival at the University of Mississippi earlier this month are (L-R) Amber Thomas, Izzy Merickle, Ryesa McGehee and Ava Johnson.

“We also had a very concentrated ad campaign, where we would post flyers around campus advertising our submissions window being open and inviting new staff members to join.”

Last year’s staff of The Switch included executive editor and current senior Leo Honbarger,

art editor and current senior Tia Runions, social media manager and current senior Ryesa McGehee and dedicated staff members Clara Adams, Ava Johnson, Alex Martin, Tre Ruff and Amber K. Thomas.

“Our success at the Southern Literary Festival was all due to

Continued on PAGE 5

Upcoming Campus Events

Tuesday, April 30

- Moonlight Breakfast, 9:30-11 p.m., Skyhawk Dining Hall

Saturday, May 4

- Commencement, 10 a.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center
- Commencement, 2 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Events are subject to cancellation; dates and times are subject to change.

Pharris to speak at UTM Speaker Series event May 9

The UT Martin Research Series moves off-campus for a special event at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 9, at the Martin Public Library.

Dr. Lily Pharris will report on current research concerning cybersecurity awareness among college students and the broader community.

“While exploring strategies to strengthen cybersecurity defenses on campus, we increase students’ understanding of the growing risks in our digital environment,” she said.

The study advocates for proactive cybersecurity education to prepare students for the challenges ahead –during their college years and in their subsequent professional careers.

Pharris’ research utilizes a phishing simulation approach, which is useful to off-campus communities and the general public.

Pharris serves as assistant professor of computer science at UT Martin, where she dedicates her time to advancing cybersecurity education and fostering student success.

Her scholarly interests encompass a wide array of topics, including cybersecurity, emerging technologies, business analytics and human-computer interaction.

Through interdisciplinary exploration, Pharris delves into critical issues such as preventing social engineering attacks and strengthening cybersecurity measures in business environments, thereby offering valuable insights that bridge the realms of cybersecurity, education, business and technology.

Pharris holds a Doctor of Business Administration in information systems from Liberty University, a Master of



Pharris

Business Administration from the University of Memphis and a Bachelor of Business Administration in computer information systems from the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Prior to joining the Department of Computer Science at UT Martin, she held the position of associate professor in the Department of Computer Information

Systems at Northwestern State University in Louisiana.

As the co-chair of UT Martin’s Women in STEM initiative, Pharris actively champions equal opportunities and empowerment for students pursuing careers in technology. She strives to cultivate an inclusive learning environment where all students feel valued and equipped to excel.

The event is co-sponsored by the Martin Public Library, the Friends of the Martin Public Library, UT Martin’s Division of Academic Affairs and the Paul Meek Library.

It is open to the public and will begin at 6:30 p.m. May 9 at the public library at 410 S. Lindell St. in Martin.

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

This Week’s Skyhawk Home Events

Tuesday, April 30

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

Saturday, May 4

- *Softball vs. Southeast Missouri (dh), 1 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field

Sunday, May 5

- *Softball vs. Southeast Missouri, 1 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field

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



Spring is Kablooming all over



Kaiden Jones (center) of the grounds staff got all kinds of help in putting in plants around the Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center on April 23, as some of the students came out to help. The grounds area hosted Kabloom!, a day for faculty, staff and students (even this young!) to help beautify the areas around their buildings by planting flowers or other plants. Grounds supplied the plants, tools and a team leader to help people put it all together.

African American Leadership Conference held April 16



Those from UT Martin attending the 25th WestStar African American Leadership Conference in Jackson included (front row, l-r) Candice McCloud, Persempathy Harrell, Ashney Williams, Diedra Walker, Dr. Annie Jones, (back row, l-r) LeAnne Perry, Virginia Grimes Hannah Bilger, Kameron Echols and Jennifer Smiley. Chancellor Yancy Freeman was the keynote speaker at the conference.

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our staff and the incredible work of our previous executive editor, Leo Honbarger, and our art director, Tia Runions,” Carter said. “I was very excited by the final product, but of course, having other people recognize and acknowledge the hard work that went into it and the talent of our students – that’s the important thing.”

The staff of the 2024 issue of The Switch features McGehee as the executive editor, Thomas as the assistant editor, Izzy Merickle

as the art editor and Johnson as the social media editor.

The magazine contains a variety of writing styles, including fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry and dramatic writing as well as art submissions from students in the League of Striving Artists.

Formerly known as BeanSwitch, the renaming to The Switch was part of an updating effort made when Carter became the faculty adviser in 2023.

“I had a conversation with Leo Honbarger, our previous executive editor, and just talked about where we wanted the magazine to go in terms of brand marketing – especially because we were trying to be more present on social media,” Carter said. “The staff took a vote on a number of name suggestions and voted for The Switch.

The staff of The Switch had an official unveiling of the 2024 magazine on April 19 in the Dr. Glenn S. Gallien Auditorium in

Gooch Hall. Writers read their contributions to that magazine and hosted a reception, and art contributors presented their works from the magazine.

For more information about the Southern Literary Festival, visit thesouthernliteraryfestival.org.

For more information about The Switch magazine, contact Dr. Maari Carter at 731-881-7288 or mcarte72@utm.edu.

This article can be seen in its entirety at news.utm.edu.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – Some of the older donated wooden benches around campus are starting to look weathered. Some cleaning and restoration work appears to have begun. Is there a plan to restore and maintain all wooden benches, or will these eventually be replaced with metal benches?

• **Answer** – The Physical Plant cleans wooden benches as resources are available or as cleanings are requested. There are no plans to replace the wooden benches with metal ones, but only metal is used when new benches are placed, which is a standard that began about five years ago. Campus beautification and donors have added and/or replaced several benches on campus, and plans are to order four or five new benches in 2024. Benches purchased in honor or memory of a friend or loved one cost \$2,500, which may be paid over a period of three to five years.

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

Freeman attends annual RA, hall director dinner



Chancellor Yancy Freeman hosted the annual RA and Hall Director Appreciation Dinner on April 16 in the Boling University Center. Those in attendance included (front row, l-r) Kayla McDowell, Kate Pilcher, Daviona Gbee, Jennifer Adams, Charlie Shipman, Ren Cook, Harley Gulley, Camren Boyd, Liz Bennett (second row, l-r) Michael Reid-Wade, Bionica Barnes, Darcey Brown, Ocean Bradley, Sidney Church, Cecilia Stapleton, Alexis Deinlein, Gina McClure, Dr. Andy Lewter, Laura Kepler, (third row, l-r) Heaven Raymer-Holt, Emily Long, Ashlyn Sherrod, Jess Saucier, Chancellor Freeman, (fourth row, l-r) Brandon Mochrie, Alex Nelson, Hayden Spry, Lynetta Stampley, Terry Bingham, Brocke Hollins, Allen Farmer, (fifth row, l-r) Jordan Covington-Whitehead, Lamarius Stray, Logan Banaszak, Carter Vandrasik, Aaron Alden, Isaiah Smith and Jordan Reynolds.

Faculty, staff attend UTM Young Professionals Mixer



Shown are UT Martin faculty and staff who attended the UTM Young Professionals Mixer on April 5 in the Champions Club. The UT Martin Office of Human Resources asked Laura Kepler, Ashley Bynum, Olivia Fernandez, Hannah Stewart and Kameron Echols to host a UTM Young Professionals Mixer to help with young-employee engagement.

Faculty members receive awards at Honors Day



UT Martin teaching award recipients were honored April 14 during the university's 60th Honors Day event held in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. Faculty and student award recipients from the past academic year were recognized. Faculty members pictured are (front row, l-r) Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs; Dr. Angie MacKewn, professor of psychology, Ohio Valley Conference Faculty Commitment to Student Success Award; Dr. Janet Wilbert, associate professor of health and human performance, UT Alumni Association Teacher Award; Dr. Barb Darroch, associate professor of plant and soil science, Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award; Dr. Yancy Freeman Sr., UT Martin chancellor; (back row, l-r) Dr. Jason DeVito, associate professor of mathematics and statistics, Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award; Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science, UT Alumni Association Teacher Award; and Dr. Will Bird, associate professor of agricultural education, Outstanding Academic Advisor Award. Not pictured is Dr. Diana Watson, assistant professor of animal science, Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award.

Inaugural commencement brunch to be held May 4

A new event will be held during UTM Commencement Week: a commencement brunch held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at the Skyhawk Dining Hall in the Boling University Center.

The commencement brunch

is open to the public. Admission is \$13.50 and is payable only through cash, credit card or debit card.

For more information about the commencement brunch, email Alesa Johnson at ajohn438@utm.ed.



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