

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | April 22, 2024



Kimberly Olive-Milligan (left, pictured with Chancellor Yancy Freeman) of the Office of Campus Recreation and Jamie Crockett of the Department of Agriculture, Geoscience and Natural Resources were named the Spring 2024 Outstanding Employees on April 17.

Olive-Milligan, Crockett named Outstanding Employees

Kimberly Olive-Milligan, the assistant director of the Office of Campus Recreation, and Jamie Crockett, the farm supervisor for the Department of Agriculture, Geoscience and Natural Resources, earned the Outstanding Employee Award for the Spring 2024 semester at the Spring Coffee held April 17.

UT Martin Outstanding Employee Awards are given to one exempt and one non-exempt employee each semester. Recipients are nominated by their coworkers and chosen by a selection committee.

Olive-Milligan, who won the exempt employee award, has been with the university

since 2012 and received high praise from her coworkers in her nomination packet. She is from Martin.

“Kim truly gives her all for Campus Rec,” said one coworker. “No matter the task, rest assured it will be accomplished and at the most professional level possible. She is willing to go above and beyond to help any student or staff member in need, regardless of what else she has going.”

Another stated that Olive-Milligan “revitalized outdoor adventure,” having led seven trips for students in the 2023-24 school year.

“As a supervisor, she provides an exciting

learning environment.” another coworker said. “She is patient and encouraging and pushes us to be better and look for ways to improve. Staff and students alike love Kim; she makes everyone feel like they’re at home here.”

Crockett, who won the non-exempt employee award, oversees the daily management of the 700-acre teaching farm. He received nominations from 18 of his coworkers, supervisors and student workers. He came to UTM in 2016 and is from Rives in Obion County.

“Overseeing the farm requires one who

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Brian Johnson, lecturer of psychology, is directing the play “The Whale” at Purchase Players Community Performing Arts Center in Mayfield, Kentucky. The play was later adapted into a movie by the playwright, Samuel D. Hunter.

There are five cast members in the play, which is performed at a local community theater.

The performances are at 7 p.m. April 26-27 and May 3-4.

This is Johnson’s fifth



Johnson

directing experience.

Associate professor **Heidi Busch** participated in the Spring 2024 meeting of the West Tennessee Library Consortium, held at LeMoyné-Owen College in Memphis.

Her session, “Have a Seat! Assessing Chair Preferences at an Academic Library,” explained the process for a recent patron survey at the Paul Meek Library, the data collected, and how it influenced decisions made for the purchase



Busch

of new furniture.

Dr. Brittany Cole, assistant professor of finance, presented the paper “High Impact and High Returns: Translating Textbook Learning to Tangible Career Skills Using Student Managed Investment Funds” at the 2024 Experiential Learning Leadership Institute conference on April 3.

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, professor of agriculture economics, and **Dr. Scott Parrott**, professor of agriculture economics, are co-authors on the paper.

The paper examines the benefits students receive from the experiential learning opportunities that student-managed investment funds



Cole

provide.

The College of Business and Global Affairs and the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences offer experiential learning courses in which students trade real money for



Mehlhorn

investing purposes. Students in the courses were surveyed for their opinion on the value these types of courses offer.

Students overwhelmingly agreed that the real-world experience, technical skills and



Parrott

fundamental analysis skills are valuable to them as part of their university education.

The findings demonstrate the importance of experiential learning opportunities to students.



Long



Johnson

In their latest training with Go Cloud Careers, **Dr. Jamye Long** and **Dr. Cooper Johnson**, both associate professors of management, taught on the topic of cash flow statements.

The participants learned the purpose of these financial tools, and what positive and negative cash flows are. They were guided through an example of a statement of cash flows of a

fictitious company.

Long and Johnson have collaborated with Go Cloud Careers, an executive tech training company designed to elevate the career path of participants to a level of top management ranks, since summer 2022.

They often provide training on various business and soft skills topics.

View photos online at utm.edu/photo

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

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Killebrew

Jenny Killebrew, director of MBA and Undergraduate Student Services in the College of Business and Global Affairs, represented the university as the master of ceremonies for the Tennessee Iris Festival annual pageants in Dresden on April 6.

Killebrew emceed the Little Miss Hostess, Junior Miss Hostess, Miss Hostess and the territorial pageants throughout the day.



Rasool



Humphreys



UTM seniors Emily Ray (left) and Lilly Silpher presented posters on topics related to social media at the Midwest Political Science Association annual conference on April 2-3 (see story at right).



Starling



Hayes

UT Martin was well represented at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) annual conference held April 4-7 in Chicago.

Dr. Adnan Rasool, Dr. Carrie Humphreys and Dr. Anderson Starling presented a paper entitled “Scaffolding for Success: Using the Scaffolding Approach for Campus-Wide Retention and Progression at Regional Comprehensives.”

Rasool and Humphreys also presented a second paper entitled “Crossover Classes: Enhancing Student Learning Outcomes Through Joint Class Sessions.”

Dr. Liam Hayes presented a co-authored piece entitled “Risky Business: How Intolerance of Uncertainty and Authoritarianism Shape Risk Perception and Belief in Conspiracy Theories.”

In addition to the faculty and administration presentations, two UT Martin undergrads were also featured in a research poster session.

Lilly Slipher, a senior international studies major, and Emily Ray, a senior political science major, prepared posters on topics related to social media.

Upcoming Campus Events

Tuesday, April 23
Kabloom! planting marathon, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24
• Hawaiian luau, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Dining Hall
Thursday, April 25
• Senior Walk, 3:45 p.m., Bloing University Center to Paul Meek Library
Friday, April 26
• Sigma Chi philanthropy student event: Piano

smashing, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., adjacent to Crisp Hall
Sunday, April 28
• Faculty Women’s Plant Swap, doors open at 2 p.m., swap begins at 2:30 p.m., UTM Farm
Tuesday, April 30
• Moonlight Breakfast, 9:30-11 p.m., Skyhawk Dining Hall

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

**Read more UT Martin news
at news.utm.edu**

Freshman Council collects school supplies for MMS

Each spring semester, the Freshman Council of the Student Government Association is charged with planning an event for the entire student body with a philanthropic focus.

The 2023-24 Freshman Council class planned an event called "Retro Rewind"

on April 8 that included a night of many different activities inside the Student Recreation Center.

The Charity Committee of Freshman Council partnered with Martin Middle School to collect school supplies for Martin Middle students.

More than 400 UTM students attended the "Retro Rewind" event and the Freshman Council collected more than 900 school supply items, which they recently delivered to the Martin Middle School.

John Abel, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, is the SGA adviser.



UTM Student Government Association Freshman Council members collected more than 900 school supply items April 8 for Martin Middle School through its "Retro Rewind" collection drive. Shown with some of the collected items are (L-R) Martin Middle School Assistant Principal Becky Mullins, UTM Freshman Council members Preston Pooler, Kristy Long, Libby Borowiak and Bailey Parker and Martin Middle School Principal John Lifsey.

This Week's Skyhawk Home Events

Friday, April 26

• *Baseball vs. Tennessee Tech, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field

Saturday, April 27

*Baseball vs. Tennessee Tech, 3 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field

Sunday, April 28

*Baseball vs. Tennessee Tech, 1 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field

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



Students take part in GAME conference

Fourteen UT Martin students traveled with Dr. Mark Farley, assistant professor of finance, and Traci Crawford, assistant to the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, to New York, New York, for the 2024 Quinnipiac GAME Conference held March 21-22.

This conference is the world's largest finance conference for students and included panel discussions on the financial economy, financial

markets investments, financial technology, debt financing and real estate investment.

In addition to attending the conference, students enjoyed visits to Grand Central Station, Central Park, the 9/11 Memorial and Wall Street as well as a stroll across the Brooklyn Bridge.

All students who attended are members of Phi Iota Nu, an organization open to all UT Martin students. Farley serves as the chapter advisor.



Students who traveled to New York for the GAME conference hosted by Quinnipiac University are (front row, L-R) Rebecca Worley, Kathia Arevalo, Mike Schaefer, (center row, L-R) Amy Mitchell, Elizabeth White, Cheyenne Stewart, Emberlyn Perrochi, Mason VanCleave, (back row, L-R) Ethan Smith, Will Newman, Bennett Ragan, Alex Bowker and Van True. Not pictured are Luke Jackson, Traci Crawford and Mark Farley.

Fitness with the First Lady



As part of I Heart UTM Week, students were able to enjoy Fitness with the First Lady on April 16 in the Student Rec Center. Rafielle Freeman (at left) led the group in exercises and got a workout on the stationary bicycles.

EMPLOYEES from PAGE 1

can take on many roles with the ability to quickly shift roles at a moment's notice," said one letter of recommendation. "It also requires the ability to effectively interact with a variety of people, including farm workers, students, faculty,

administrators and the public. Mr. Crockett is an effective leader and a master of these skills. His accommodating attitude and willing spirit to provide help to those in need makes the university farm an asset to the research, teaching, and outreach missions of the

university."

Other letters of recommendation called him "knowledgeable and dependable," and said he is "a reliable worker" with "an unmatched work ethic in today's workforce."

"Jamie interacts with many

partnering agencies that have sample plots on the farm and are a huge part of making the farm a success," said another. "The relationships he has forged are vital to the success of the farm."

For more information, contact the Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615.

You Tell Me

• **Question** - When will the fountain at the Oracle be functional?

• **Answer** - The Oracle project is substantially complete, but the full opening date for the Oracle is not known. The fountain is among the punch-list items that the contractor is addressing before the Oracle is fully opened. The structure was dedicated Oct. 20, 2023, and made possible by Dr. Paul Blalock's \$2.4 million gift to the university. He is a 1968 UT Martin graduate who has worked for more than four decades as a trauma physician and a trial attorney in Portland, Oregon.

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

UTM investment team earns award at TVA conference

The UT Martin TVA Investment Challenge students attended TVA's annual spring conference April 2-3 in Nashville.

While attending the conference, students were able to engage with portfolio management professionals, senior leadership at the Tennessee Valley Authority and peer students from other universities.

The UTM TVA program received an award for its portfolio performance in 2023 at the conference as well, outperforming the portfolio's S&P 500 benchmark. This award, while presented at the conference, also represents a monetary award that continues to fund investments related student experiential learning in the College

of Business and Global Affairs.

While at the conference, the program's UTM presentation team of Alex Bowker, Jake Harrison, Maria Hudson, Courtney Pemberton and Connor Williams presented the portfolio's 2023 and year-to-date 2024 performance to fellow competitors from other schools and senior TVA leadership.

The students defended their trading decisions, answered questions and discussed opportunities for growth and change with various members of TVA's leadership team.

The TVA Investments Challenge Program is an experiential learning opportunity at UTM funded by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Students in the program manage

a \$500,000 large-cap equity fund and are benchmarked against the S&P 500 just like professional money managers.

The portfolio is funded as part of TVA's retirement trust. UTM has participated in the program since its inception in the early 2000s.

The current student managers are outperforming the S&P 500 year-to-date in 2024.

Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, assistant professor of finance, attended the conference with the students as the program's senior faculty advisor, and **Dr. Brittany Cole**, assistant professor of finance, is the program's junior faculty advisor.



Shown at the Tennessee Valley Authority's spring conference April 2-3 in Nashville are (front row, L-R) Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, Connor Williams, Alex Bowker, Maria Hudson, Kassidy Gresham, Kayla Potete, (back row, L-R) Courtney Pemberton, Jake Harrison, Archie Scott, Aaron Bartholomew and Oliver Cloyd.

Faculty Women's Club
Plant Swap
 Sunday, April 28, 2024
 Doors open at 2:00 p.m.
 Swapping begins at 2:30 p.m.
 Location: UTM Farm (watch for signs)
 Rain or shine!
 Bring a friend and plenty
 of plants to swap!

Contact: Barb Darroch 731-819-7161

YOU'RE INVITED TO A

Hawaiian Luau Party!

HOSTED BY UTM DINING SERVICES

April 24, 2024 • 5PM
 Skyhawk Dining Hall
 Boling University Center

Air Pods Grand Prize, Giveaways, Photo Booth, Luau Themed Food, Mocktails, Music & More!

Three named to April Skyhawk Spirit Awards

Angie Gertsch, the administrative aide for the Division of Academic Affairs; Stefanie Gray, a nurse practitioner in the Office of Student Health Services; and Gwendolyn Hopkins, an administrative specialist in the Office of Human Resources, were all named to the Skyhawk Spirit Award for April 2024.

Each of these award winners will receive a \$50 cash prize for winning the award. There was no Innovation Spirit Award winner this month.

The person who nominated Gertsch said her work with the Mentoring Administrative Professionals Program (MAPP) was what led to her nomination for the monthly award.

“She takes time from her normal duties to train other employees on how to use various functions in IRIS so that can effectively perform their job,” the nomination read. “MAPP is a program that will have long-term benefits to our employees and organization, and Angie is one of the primary driving forces behind its success.”

It was noted that Gertsch also serves on the Special Compensation Committee empaneled by the chancellor and does many other trainings or sets up professional trainings for IRIS, Banner, Argos, Concur, Qualtrics, Canvas, Oracle, Teams, One space and Microsoft Office.

Gray’s dedication and



Gertsch

“passion for excellence” are what led the person who nominated her to do so.

“From the moment Stefanie joined our team, her passion for excellence and collaborative UTM spirit stood out,” her nomination read. “Her dedication to her patients is exemplary. She will make referrals for students when our clinic cannot provide the service that one might be needing. She follows up with students, not only about their medical concerns but also with any other issues they might have.

Hopkins is an administrative specialist in the Office of Human Resources. The person who nominated her said “her energetic and engaging way she interacts with employees, always creating a warm and friendly reception” was what led to her nomination. The person who nominated her added that she has assumed new duties.

“Specifically, leading Women Focus Groups as a part of the



Gray

university’s strategy to better engage female employees, as well as working closely with the Young Professionals Group” the nomination form read. “Finally, she has taken on the additional responsibilities within the HR department of managing all activities for the K@TE management learning system.”

The Skyhawk Spirit Award is given monthly and 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 to receive Spirit Awards. Independent contractors, temporary employees, volunteers and executive-level staff who report directly to the chancellor and serve as a member of the chancellor’s cabinet are not eligible for the award.

Skyhawk Spirit Award winners earn a \$50 cash prize, while Innovation Spirit Award winners get a \$250 cash prize.



Hopkins

The Innovation Spirit Award seeks to recognize employees who achieve beyond the status quo who implement an idea, initiative, process or system that improves efficiencies or outcomes.

The \$250 Innovative Spirit Awards will be reviewed by the director of human resources for final approval and must include sufficient documentation of the employee contribution that warrants their nomination. The \$50 Spirit Awards also require a brief nomination statement about the contribution or action made by the nominated employee.

Nominations should be sent to skyhawkspiritaward@utm.edu by May 3, or the first Friday of each month.

Previous Skyhawk Spirit Award winners were **Shannon Baughton**, Innovation Award, February 2024; **Kim Barnett-Stone**, Innovation Award, March 2024; and **Dr. Dexter Davis**, Skyhawk Spirit Award, March 2024.

**Submit a YoUTM or question
to addenda@utm.edu!**

addenda

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