

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | May 6, 2024

Congratulations to spring Class of 2024!



Above: Spring 2024 graduates listen to the commencement address given by Cary E. Vaughn, CEO and president of Love Worth Finding Ministries Inc. of Memphis. Some 607 UT Martin students earned degrees in the spring 2024 semester. UT Martin had two commencement exercises May 4 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Left: UT Martin graduate Colby Maclin gives a hug to Chancellor Freeman after receiving her diploma. Maclin is a mass media and strategic communication graduate from Ripley.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Smith

Dr. Clinton Smith, chair and professor of special education in the Department of Educational Studies, was elected to serve a three-year term on the Tennessee Education Association’s Board of Directors as the representative for higher education.



Shepard

Dr. Derrick Shepard, assistant professor of counseling, was awarded the 2024 Dean’s Award for outstanding scholarship in the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences.

Find photos
online
at utm.edu/photos

Attending MPA Convention in Chicago



Dr. Angie MacKewn, professor of psychology, presented a paper entitled “Clean Keto Diet with Intermittent Fasting Improves Metabolic Health” at the Midwestern Psychology Association Convention on April 17-19 in Chicago. She and Natasha Varnick, lecturer in psychology, brought four students with them to the conference. The paper that MacKewn presented was a research project that she had worked on with Dr. Julie Floyd, professor of nursing; Dr. Todd Sherman, chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance; and Dr. Allison Ellis, assistant professor of health and human performance. Pictured at the MPA Convention are (front row, L-R) senior Amanda Williamson of Three Way; Varnick; (back row, L-R) senior Ammon Johnson of Milan; junior Diana Sanford of Lawrenceburg; sophomore Bryanna Donegan of Clifton; and MacKewn. The students presented posters at the conference on their undergraduate research projects.

Destin Tucker, director of undergraduate admissions and chair of the Strategic Enrollment Management Council, served on a keynote panel at the National Association of Campus Auxiliary Services South Conference held April 21-24 at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort in Orlando, Florida.

The theme of the conference was “Creating and Cultivating the College Experience.”

Tucker and three other panelists responded to the question “How can auxiliary services help achieve university goals for enrollment and retention as we face the enrollment cliff?”

Other panelists included Shannon Goodman of the University of North Texas, Kate Howard of Capture Higher Ed and Dr Esmeralda Valdez of the University of Houston.



Tucker

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

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Dr. Kevin Pitz, Dr. Tom Blanchard and Dr. Dawn Wilkins of the Department of Biological Sciences recently attended the 85th annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists in Chattanooga with 13 UTM students.

Matthew Vincent, junior ecology and environmental biology major, presented a poster co-authored with Pitz titled "Isolation and characterization of novel yeast strains from entomological and botanical samples from Weakley County, Tennessee, USA."

Grayce Cunningham, senior ecology and environmental biology major, presented a poster co-authored with Blanchard titled "Does stream restoration influence the diet composition of brindled madtoms (*Noturus miurus*)?"



Pitz

Blanchard and Cunningham were co-authors on a poster titled "Parasites of the Brindled Madtom, *Noturus miurus*, from Western Tennessee: Where are the worms?" with Nicholas Bates and Dr. Riccardo Fiorillo of Georgia Gwinnett College.

Skylar Lowery, senior natural resources management major,



Blanchard

presented a poster co-authored by Wilkins titled "Does human activity impact provisioning and nesting success of Osprey at Reelfoot Lake?"

Autumn Reeves, senior organismal biology major, gave an oral presentation titled "Mortality of Eastern Bluebirds following a severe winter storm."

This presentation was co-



Wilkins

authored by senior organismal biology major Natalie Marques, UT Martin alumna and current graduate student at UT Chattanooga Sevyn Brothers, professor of biology Dr. Linda Husmann and Wilkins along with Diamilet Martinez, Valentina Lancheros and Dr. Riccardo Fiorillo of Georgia Gwinnett College.

Dr. William Davis, professor of economics and interim chair of the Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems, was published April 22 on the MoneyGeek website under the heading "Expert Insights on GDP," proving information about the gross domestic product, how it works and if the average American can benefit from knowing how the GDP works.



Davis

His contribution can be found [here](#).

Associate professor of library science Heidi Busch chaired the Middle School Committee for the Volunteer State Book Awards program.

The committee shortlisted 20 books, with middle school students across the state reading and voting for their favorite titles.

This year's winner in the middle school division is the book "Dinged" by Tommy Greenwald, and highlights the issue of concussions and brain injuries in football players, even



Busch

at an early age.

UTM RESEARCH SERIES:
WOMEN IN STEM

DR. LILY PHARRIS
PRESENTS

6:30 PM
THURSDAY, MAY 9

ENHANCING
CYBERSECURITY
AWARENESS
IN UNIVERSITIES

NEW LOCATION:
MARTIN PUBLIC
LIBRARY

UT MARTIN CO-SPONSORED BY THE DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND THE UT MARTIN LIBRARIES

PAUL MEEK LIBRARY
731-881-7092
UTM.EDU/ACADEMICS/LIBRARY

Read more UT Martin news
at news.utm.edu

Regional retention summit to be held May 22-23

Student retention, persistence and success in higher education will be the topics presented and discussed during the third Skyhawk Regional Retention Summit May 22-23 at UT Martin.

Public and private two- and four-year institutions in Tennessee and across the southeast are invited to attend.

Registration should be completed online in advance at www.utm.edu/retentionsummit, where a complete summit schedule is available.

The registration fee is \$50 for UT Martin attendees and \$100 for non-UTM participants.

All summit activities will be held in the Boling University Center.

“We all are engaged in the same broad task, which is to

increase the persistence and success of the students we enroll,” said **Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier**, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs and UT Martin provost. “Excellent speakers and facilitators will participate in the summit, and we plan for plenty of discussion time to share student-retention information that affects all participants.”

A welcome lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m. May 22 in the university center’s Duncan Ballroom will open the summit, followed by six sessions that begin at 1:45 p.m. and will conclude by 4:45.

A reception and dinner starting at 5 p.m. in the Duncan Ballroom will end the day’s program.

The summit opens at 8:30 a.m. May 23 with a continental breakfast followed by sessions



In this file photo, UT Martin senior vice chancellor and provost Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier speaks during a past Skyhawk Regional Retention Summit in Watkins Auditorium. UT Martin will hold its third Skyhawk Regional Retention Summit May 22-23 in the Boling University Center.

seven through 10 that begin at 9:15 and conclude at 11 a.m. A wrap-up session will close the summit.

For more information, call the UT Martin Division of Academic Affairs at 731-881-7010.

This Week’s Skyhawk Home Events

Friday, May 10

- *Baseball vs. Lindenwood, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field

Saturday, May 11

- *Baseball vs. Lindenwood, 3 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field

Sunday, May 12

- *Baseball vs. Lindenwood, 1 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field

End of home events for 2023-24 school year.

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



First-generation graduates honored



UT Martin held its inaugural first-generation graduates reception April 29 in the Duncan Ballroom of the Boling University Center. The reception celebrated their achievements, and each first-generation graduate in attendance received a special cord to wear during commencement on May 4.

Addenda to move to alternating-week summer schedule

The Addenda newsletter will begin its summer schedule after this issue. The next edition of Addenda will be released on Monday, May 20.

Addenda will be released

every two weeks throughout the summer until classes resume for the fall 2024 semester on Monday, Aug. 26.

Readers may continue to send items, photos and questions

for the newsletter to addenda@utm.edu during the summer schedule.

Previous and current issues of Addenda can be found at news.utm.edu/addenda.

UT System President Boyd addresses UTM faculty, staff



University of Tennessee System President Randy Boyd (left center) presents members of UT Martin's faculty and staff May 1 in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center with information from the recent state legislative session that concluded April 25.

UTM among top 14% for international students

UT Martin ranks among the top 14% of more than 8,000 colleges and universities ranked by Study Abroad Aide (SAA).

The SAA World Rankings for Best Value Universities for International Students was released on April 12.

Chancellor Yancy Freeman has made it a priority to increase the number of international students at UT Martin to 5% of the student population.

Study Abroad Aide collected information

from 8,032 colleges and universities around the world, including tuition fees, required English proficiency test scores, university admission websites, the type and location of the universities and the universities' websites.

Colleges and universities are then ranked by total enrollment, including international student body. Ranking is also determined by affordability and academic reputation.

The ranking was created by Study Abroad

Aide to help international students find a good college fit for them and encourage them to go to college abroad by providing a listing of affordable and reputable colleges or universities.

UT Martin ranked fourth-best among colleges and universities in the state of Tennessee.

Information about this ranking and its ranking of other universities can be found at the [Study Abroad Aide website](#).

You Tell Me

• **Question** – The university announced last January that as part of its 10-year partnership with Sodexo, faculty and staff members were allowed one complimentary meal at the Skyhawk Dining Hall per week for the fall and spring semesters. Will that also be applicable to the summertime?

• **Answer** – This agreement is for the fall and spring semesters only. For faculty and staff interested in a takeout option, Sodexo provides a Green Take Out Container/Carabiner Clip option for a one-time cost of \$5, plus applicable taxes. Customers can fill the container with their desired food upon purchase. Upon returning for the next meal, customers can exchange the used container for a clean, sanitized one or request a carabiner clip for their convenience. Sodexo will happily swap the carabiner clip for a fresh container whenever customers wish to take their meal to go. Customers must purchase a new container for continued takeout privileges if the container or carabiner is misplaced. Menus for the Skyhawk Dining Hall are available [here](#).

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

Retiring faculty, staff honored at April 29 dinner



Fifteen people retiring as UT Martin faculty or staff were honored April 29 at a dinner in their honor. Those in attendance – shown with Chancellor Yancy Freeman (far left) – are (L-R) former women's tennis coach Dennis Taylor, former dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts Dr. Lynn Alexander, former coordinator of the Student Affairs Program Evaluation Dr. George Daniel, former professor of history and longtime Tom Elam Distinguished Professor of History Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls and former professor of philosophy Dr. Henry Parker. Freeman thanked those in attendance for their service to the university and offered a brief presentation about his vision for UT Martin.

Kid College, summer camp registration has begun

The UT Martin Office of University Outreach, Camps and Non-Degree Programs is marking its 40th year of presenting Kid College, one of several summer programs offered by the university.

Kid College will take place June 3-7. More information can be found at www.utm.edu/kidcollege.

Begun in 1984, Kid College provided educational experiences for area children going into kindergarten through fifth grade.

This year, that educational experience continues, but students moving into grades 3 through 5 will have Kid College and those moving into kindergarten through second grade will have a new program called Junior Kid College.

The addition of Junior Kid College enables younger participants the opportunity to be with participants closer to their own age.

"We have kindergartners through second-graders coming the week prior to Kid College, and they all attend four classes," said Jennifer Cooper, the director of the

Office of University Outreach, Camps and Non-Degree Programs. "They are here for a half-day, and the regular Kid College is held the following week."

Classes provided to students in Junior Kid College are Messy Mayhem Science Lab, Kids' Field Day, Slime-Tastic Creations and Candy Crafters.

Junior Kid College will take place May 28-31. Registration information can be found at www.utm.edu/juniorkc.

Kid College will continue to meet a wide range of interests through its many class choices.

"Students coming to Kid College have a variety of classes to choose from," Cooper said. "They will pick their classes and create a schedule and spend the week here on campus."

Class subjects offered at Kid College include art, basketball, cheerleading, comic creating, cooking, dance, farm animal care, karate, photography, science and more.

A full list of Kid College classes and

registration instructions – as well as information for UTM athletics camps for basketball, football, soccer, softball and others – can be found at www.utm.edu/outreach.

"This is part of our outreach," Cooper said. "We like to bring the kids to campus and give them the opportunity to spend the week with us and, hopefully, come back when it's time to go to college."

Other camps offered by the Office of University Outreach, Camps and Non-Degree Programs include a robotics camp for kindergarten through fifth grade (June 10-14) and Skyhawk Discovery Camp for middle-school students (June 24-28), where part of the camp takes place on the UTM campus and the other part at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

More information about these programs is available by calling the Office of University Outreach, Camps and Non-Degree Programs at 731-881-7082 or by visiting www.utm.edu/outreach.

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Published weekly during the academic year and biweekly during the summer by UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238

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