



Northern lights seen through Southern nights



The aurora borealis, also known as the northern lights, had a rare local showing May 10 over the UT Martin Farm, giving the sky a purple haze even Jimi Hendrix would be proud of. The sky showed colors of purple and green as far south as Florida. The extended northern lights show was caused by a series of coronal mass ejections that week – a large ejection of magnetic field and accompanying plasma mass from the sun's corona, the outermost part of its atmosphere. The ejections caused disturbances in Earth's magnetosphere, greatly enhancing the northern lights normally visible only in more northern areas. Though the show was difficult to see with the naked eye, extended-exposure photos were able to provide mementos of the event. This photo was taken with a 30-second exposure around 10 p.m.

Annual Memorial Day program to be held May 24

UT Martin will host its annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony at 9 a.m. Friday, May 24, at the open area between the Paul Meek Library and the Boling University Center. The ceremony is open to the public.

Warkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center is the alternative site for the ceremony.

The guest speaker of the ceremony will be retired Lt. Col. Michael Peeler.

Peeler graduated from UT Martin in December 1995 with a bachelor of science degree in physical education and health and

was commissioned into the Army in the field artillery.

He served in South Korea and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the mission of building the Afghan Border Police Force.

Peeler was selected to serve as professor of military science for the U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina.

He retired from the Army in November 2015 after nearly 27 years of service.

Currently, Peeler serves as the inaugural chief of police for Dyersburg State Community College and area Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology.

Lt. Col. Bernard House, professor of military science, said the observance of Memorial Day is important to honor those who gave their lives for their nation.

"We give honor to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, he said. "It is important to honor them and also to honor their families, who also made sacrifices for their service."

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highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Farley named to 2024 Marquis Who's Who honors

Dr. Mark Farley, assistant professor of finance, was named one of 2024 Marquis Who's Who honorees for his work with UT Martin students and community banks.

Established in 1898, Marquis Who's Who began publishing biographical data in 1899. Since then, it has become known for its reliable and comprehensive biographical data.

Farley and Clint Davis, chief

operating officer of Commercial Bank & Trust Company in Paris, joined students Ben Arnold, Dan Hoffman and Cole Hollis to present their original student case-study research at the 2023 Community Banking Research Conference held Oct. 4-5 at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. The case study was awarded first place nationally.

The audience at the conference included Federal

Reserve Bank presidents who are elected by their regional commercial bank members, and Michelle Bowman, a Federal Reserve Board governor who was appointed by the president of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

John Clark, the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking, recruited students and supervised their involvement in this case study competition.

The students were also mentored and assisted by **Traci Crawford**, assistant to the Dunagan Chair, and **Dr. Lajuan Davis**, professor of business communication.

This was the second first-place finish for UT Martin in this competition in the last three years.

UT Martin is the first university to win the competition twice.



Pictured at the 2023 Community Bank Research Conference in St. Louis are (front row, L-R) Karen Lawson, Conference of State Bank Supervisors executive vice president of policy and supervision; Michelle Bowman, Federal Reserve Board governor; UTM professor Dr. Lajuan Davis; UTM students Ben Arnold and Cole Hollis; Traci Crawford, assistant to Dunagan Chair; (back row, L-R) Jeffrey Schmid, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City president; Carl White, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis senior vice president; UTM assistant professor Dr. Mark Farley; Conference of State Bank Supervisors Chair Lisa Kruse; Commercial Bank & Trust Chief Operating Officer Clint Davis; UTM student Dan Hoffman; and John Clark, Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.

Dr. Anita Rogers, lecturer of nursing at the UTM Parsons Center, was awarded the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Studies Pinnacle Award for 2023-24 recognizing her excellence in teaching and scholarship.

She serves as the advisor for the Student Nurses Association at the Parsons Center.



Rogers

UTM Retention Summit
May 22-23
Duncan Ballroom
Boling University Center

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highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

The Office of University Relations earned five awards in the 2024 Tennessee College Public Relations Association's Communications Awards competition.

Award categories in which UT Martin earned recognition were spot photography (**Nathan Morgan**, silver and bronze awards), sports photography (Morgan, gold award), low-budget publication (**Anna Barnes**, silver award) and college promotional video (**Dylan Ingram**, silver award).

Awards were announced during the TCPRA State



Morgan

Conference May 15-17 at Montgomery Bell State Park in Dickson and attended by creative services coordinator **Beth Bodwell**, social media coordinator **Emma Bruner** and



Barnes

staff writer **David Snow**.

Bud Grimes, vice chancellor for communications and marketing, directs the Office of University Relations.

The Tennessee College



Ingram

Public Relations Association is an independent professional-development organization that includes Tennessee public and private colleges and universities from across the state.



Long



Johnson

Dr. Jamye Long and **Dr. Cooper Johnson**, both associate professors of management, led an enthusiastic audience in a Go Cloud Careers training titled "Being a High Achiever: Making Time Work for You."

In the interactive session, participants enjoyed learning about time management skills, tips, challenges and advice in how to maximize their

productivity through planning, goal setting and prioritizing.

This event is part of Long and Johnson's collaboration with Go Cloud Careers in which they provide a worldwide audience with soft skills and business-relevant training designed to prepare them for their careers in executive-level technology-driven fields.

Dr. Mary Radford, professor and chair of nursing, and **Dr. Justin Martin**, professor and chair of behavioral sciences, presented at the UT System Professional Development Conference for Academic Unit Leaders on April 5 in Franklin.

Radford presented on how to balance competing priorities with limited resources and Martin presented on addressing conflict within a department.



Radford



Martin

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It's a matter of degrees



Yancy Freeman Jr. celebrates receiving his master's degree May 3 in McKenzie Arena at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Joining him for commencement were his parents, Dr. Yancy and Rafielle Freeman, and his sister, Camille, who is a UT Martin student. The Freemans returned to Martin for Chancellor Freeman to preside over two spring commencement ceremonies May 4 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center (photo courtesy of UT Chattanooga).

Spirit Award winners for May announced

Sarah Morris, the student services coordinator for the Student Services and Success Mentoring Center, was named the May winner of the Innovation Spirit Award, while four people were announced as the May winners of the Skyhawk Spirit Award.

Earning the Skyhawk Spirit Award were **Dr. Lajuan Davis**, professor of business communication; **Kameron Echols**, director of multicultural affairs in the Office of Student Life; **Daryl Hawkins** of Information Technology Services; and **Tammy Stanford**, success counselor for the Student Services and Success Mentoring Center.



Morris

For being named to the Innovation Spirit Award, Morris earned a \$250 award, and Davis, Echols, Hawkins and Stanford each earned \$50 awards.

The person who nominated Morris for the award praised

her for her work in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) lab.

"Sarah administers our STEM tutoring lab and the Supplemental Instruction program," stated the nomination letter. "Over the last year, Sarah has developed and administered a new training program using modules via EdApp to provide professional development for our student peer educators in the STEM lab and SI programs."

"Sarah developed these resources independently, drawing on best practices from national organizations and thought and practice leaders within the peer education community. Her training

approach is currently being considered as a template for wider development and for use by other tutoring areas and student leadership organizations. Sarah's innovative approach to training and her administration of this program have led to increased attendance at SI sessions, more effective tutoring via SI and STEM lab offerings, and have contributed to increased student success."

Davis was nominated for her work in highlighting changes in her field in her classes.

"She has brought a lot of innovation to UTM through her courses to compliment changes in information

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UTM Ripley Center gains \$343K digital skills grant

The UT Martin Ripley Center received a two-year \$343,640 digital skills grant from the State of Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

The UTM Ripley Center will use the grant to enhance its summer camps, teacher workshops programs and after-school computer coding camps.

Ripley Center Interim Director Jessica Cannon-Macklin said the grant will be used to enhance those programs.

“We did a coding camp last summer with Code Crew from Memphis,” she said. “We had a really good turnout, and the parents said they had never had anything like that in Lauderdale County before.”

Cannon-Macklin said Dr. Simpfronia Taylor, the director of grant and community programs at the UTM Ripley Center, read about the grant through the State of Tennessee and said that could be used to duplicate those programs.

“The teachers’ workshop is a new added feature,” Cannon-Macklin said. “The one we did last year was an introduction to coding camp, but now, we’re going to do a curriculum that is more in-depth this year.

“We’ll be working with robots and actually having the children come up with their own coding.”

The afterschool offerings of the coding camps are slated to begin in January and will be for middle school students.

“We feel excited to bring something unique and different to the rural counties,” Cannon-Macklin said. “It’s nice to offer some more technologically advanced camps and workshops for our area.”

The Digital Skills, Education, and Workforce Development grants program, funded by the American Rescue Plan, will distribute \$17 million across digital skills, education and workforce development, including broadband infrastructure workforce development and higher education/adult educational entities.

The digital skills and education program will invest in evidence-based initiatives that focus on improving introductory-level and advanced digital skills. The goal of this program is to support skilling programs and access to advanced digital tools so that individuals can develop the technical proficiency required to navigate complex digital environments, participate in the digital economy, and drive innovation.

For more information about the UT Martin Ripley Center, visit www.utm.edu/academics/ripley-center.



Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi (left), dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs, was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award and the keynote speaker at the 2024 annual conference of the International Academy of Business Disciplines (IABD).

Tootoonchi has been affiliated with IABD for more than 30 years and served in various capacities including program chair, president, and member of the board of directors.

He is shown above receiving the award from IABD President Dr. Paul Fadil.



Paul Meek Library • Summer Hours

Monday-Thursday	8 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday	Closed

These hours will be in effect during the Maymester and summer session periods. The library will be closed on Memorial Day (May 27), Juneteenth (June 19) and Independence Day (July 4). For more information, call the Paul Meek Library at 731-881-7065.

You Tell Me

- **Question** – What’s the purpose of the fenced-in area north of Browning and Ellington residence halls?
- **Answer** – The Physical Plant will be repairing a sinkhole in that area this summer. A mini-excavator will be brought to campus so that the Physical Plant can do the repair work. Sinkholes typically happen around catch basins or utility repairs. When discovered, these areas are flagged for safety purposes until repairs can be made.

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

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technology,” stated her letter of nomination. “One of her most recent innovations is the founding of a conference with a focus on experiential learning. Experiential learning is now a focus of the business accreditation of (the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business).”

Echols was nominated for his work in multicultural affairs.

“Since taking over as the director of multicultural affairs, I have seen a major increase in the programming efforts, social media interactions and, most of all, utilization of our campus resources by our minority students,” stated his letter of nomination. “Kameron has worked diligently to provide both social and academic resources to students by hosting new events such as Real Talk, No Cap (an event where students can bring concerns or questions and be open and honest about their feedback) and Study Sessions in the MCA lounge.”

Hawkins was nominated for resolving an office emergency during finals week.

“On the evening of May 1, the main copier/printer in the Department of Mathematics

and Statistics quit working,” stated his letter of nomination. “The error code indicated misfed paper, and various faculty members tried to clear the problem to no avail. At 9:17 a.m. on May 2, I submitted a UTM ITS service request for help repairing the copier.

“Within minutes, Daryl Hawkins arrived in our office and began working. He worked for over three hours to identify and fix the problem. There was no misfeed; the machine mis-diagnosed a problem with the hole puncher as a misfeed. For two consecutive iterations of final exams, Daryl Hawkins has fixed our copier. More importantly, he has given the problem the priority that our department felt that it deserved during a critical time for us.”

Stanford was nominated for helping a student.

“A few weeks ago, a student approached Tammy to tell her that she was in between paychecks and didn’t have enough money to purchase laundry detergent,” stated her letter of nomination. “This student got the detergent she needed, and in addition to other campus partners who

routinely supply these kinds of needs for students, the SSC now maintains a small supply of personal need items in our common area, allowing students to discretely take any items they may need. In addition to the strong work already done in this area by our other campus partners, this resource provides students with increased access to support.”

Begun last January, the Skyhawk Spirit Award is given monthly and seeks to recognize employee contributions that exceed expectations for performance, while 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.

All regular full- and part-time faculty and staff up to the level of director are eligible to receive either of the 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.

The \$250 Innovation Spirit Award nominations are 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.

Along with this month’s five award winners, the Spirit Award winners for the 2023-24 school year were:

- Shannon Baughton, Innovation Award, February
- Kim Barnett-Stone, Innovation Award, March
- Dr. Dexter Davis, Skyhawk Spirit Award, March
- Angie Gertsch, Skyhawk Spirit Award, April
- Stephanie Gray, Skyhawk Spirit Award, April
- Gwendolyn Hopkins, Skyhawk Spirit Award, April

Nominations should be sent to skyhawkspiritaward@utm.edu by the first Friday of each month. Spirit Awards will not be awarded during the summer and will resume in September.



Davis



Echols



Hawkins



Stanford

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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