

# addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | June 17, 2024

## UTM, TCAT Northwest sign articulation agreement



Shown at the articulation agreement signing ceremony at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Northwest campus in Bells on June 5 are (L-R) TCAT Northwest President Youlanda Jones and UTM representatives Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Erica Bell, executive director of the Office of Regional Centers and Online Programs; and Dr. Wes Totten, chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geoscience and Natural Resources. Chancellor Yancy Freeman signed the agreement on behalf of UT Martin.

UT Martin signed an articulation agreement June 5 with the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Northwest that will enable more students in West Tennessee to pursue a degree through UT Martin.

A signing ceremony was held at TCAT Northwest's Bells Instructional Service Center in Crockett County.

Dr. Youlanda Jones, president of TCAT Northwest, told those in attendance that the agreement will mean a lot to students in the area.

"This articulation agreement will be invaluable for the growth and expansion for our farming operations technology and our digital agronomy programs," she said.

"It will align perfectly with the UT Martin Bachelor of Science in agricultural business and Bachelor of Science in agriculture with a major in general agriculture."

UTM Chancellor Yancy Freeman detailed what the articulation agreement with TCAT Northwest means to area students.

"This new partnership between TCAT Northwest and UTM offers an exciting opportunity for eligible students," he said. "Upon successful completion of a farming operations technology or a digital agronomy program at TCAT Northwest, students can earn up to 30 credit hours (toward a UTM degree). These credits can be applied to UT Martin's main campus, at the UT Martin regional centers located in Jackson, Ripley

and Somerville, and through UTM Online, providing students with a more flexible and efficient academic journey.

"The new articulation agreement provides students with a clear road map for their academic progress, reduces costs and offers students peace of mind that the transfer process is well-defined. Furthermore, the collaboration between our institutions provides students with a supportive network to enhance their success."

Others from UT Martin who were present at the signing ceremony included Dr. Todd Winters, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Dr. Wes Totten, chair of the Department of

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# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Perry

Shannon Perry, director of the Office of Student Conduct and Care, and Priscilla Price, coordinator of the Office of Student Conduct and Care, presented “Outreach 101: Prevention and Proactive Engagement” with the UT Martin Care Team May 21 at the Partners in Prevention Conference statewide training at the Farm Bureau Expo Center in Lebanon.

Perry and Price shared the UT Martin Care Team’s innovative



Price

approach to student well-being and success.

Their focus on proactive engagement, holistic programming and addressing substance use and mental health concerns left attendees inspired and equipped with new ideas.

The emphasis on fun, engaging activities underscored the importance of meeting students’ needs while fostering a supportive campus culture.

Dr. Michael T. O’Neill, director of public safety, retired from the U.S. Army Reserve on May 1 with the rank of command sergeant major and 36 years of honorable service.

Sergeant major is the highest enlisted rank in the Army; less than 1% ever achieve the rank of sergeant major, and less than half of those are placed in the leadership position of command sergeant major.

Prior to his retirement, O’Neill served as the command sergeant major for the 6th Brigade, 102nd Division, responsible for psychological operations and civil affairs training throughout the entire Army Reserve.

While in this role, he was the garrison command sergeant major for Fort Totten, Queens,



O’Neill

New York, and responsible for units in California, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin.

O’Neill completed his doctorate in public policy and administration from Walden University earlier in 2024. He completes his first year as UT Martin director of public safety this month.



Carter

Dr. Maari Carter, assistant professor of English, is the 2024 recipient of the Elliot McKeel Advocate and Ally Award. The Center for Women and Gender Equality created this award in honor of a student who passed away in 2021 who had a passion for supporting and advocating for LGBT+ students on campus. Dr. Carter is known among her students as being someone they can confide in and find support. She encourages and inspires others through her love of poetry and embodies the spirit of the McKeel Award.



### 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 summer session periods.

The library will be closed on Juneteenth (June 19) and Independence Day (July 4).

For more information, call the Paul Meek Library at 731-881-7065.

Submit a YoUTM or question to [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu)!

# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Three UT Martin staff - **Eric Simmons**, director of campus recreation; **Demetrius Robinson**, director of career planning and development; and **Kameron Echols**, director of multicultural affairs, were invited to attend the Mid-Managers Institute (MMI).

MMI is hosted by Region III of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and the Southern Association of Colleges Student Affairs.

MMI offers an opportunity for mid-level professionals to



**Simmons**

enhance and develop the skills, relationships and dispositions that distinguish them in the profession and enable them



**Robinson**

to make more meaningful contributions to the people and programs they serve.

They were joined by higher



**Echols**

education professionals from across Tennessee and throughout the Southern region.

**Dr. David Taylor**, adjunct faculty member, was featured in the May 2024 edition of WalletHub with comments on the topic "Compare Personal Loan Rates."

You can find the Q&A [here](#).

WalletHub, which is based in Washington, D.C., is a financial website that offers information such as credit-improvement advice and personalized savings alerts.

The site's business-related features are supplemented with information from subject-matter experts.



**Taylor**

**Dr. Jason DeVito**, professor of mathematics and statistics, earned a second consecutive three-year award from the National Science Foundation that will go toward his study in how the universe is shaped.

The award totals \$136,007 and will help fund the project "RUI: Quotient Spaces and the Double-Soul Conjecture."

DeVito will receive two academic months of financial support during the summer term each year and will be funded for travel to the Joint Mathematics Meetings annually as well as the Workshop on Curvature and Global Shape in Germany and the United Kingdom each year.

DeVito earned a similar NSF award in 2021, which will expire on June 30, 2024.

The projects that DeVito earned both NSF awards for are based on Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity, which predicts that the curvature of the universe is a four-dimensional shape called space-time that is determined by the matter and energy within it.

"From measurements physicists have done, it appears that, on average, our universe



**DeVito**

is either flat (zero curvature) or slightly positively curved," DeVito stated in an email. "Here, positive curvature refers to something like the surface of a sphere. This leads to a math question that I am interested in: What are all the four-dimensional shapes whose curvature is zero or positive?"

"But there's a twist. Some versions of quantum mechanics suggest that our universe is actually 10-dimensional - others 13. That means to me that there's nothing special about the math question in four dimensions. So, what are all the shapes whose curvature is zero or positive?"

The current grant and the previous grant aim to help DeVito answer this question.

**Read more UT  
Martin news at  
[news.utm.edu!](https://news.utm.edu)**

# Inaugural dual enrollment summit held on campus



The Office of Regional Centers and Online Programs and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts hosted the first UTM Dual Enrollment Summit on May 22 on the UTM campus. The event brought together faculty to support student academic success and Effective Pedagogical Models in early post-secondary environments. Those in attendance includes (from bottom of stairs to top) Dr. Dan McDonough, Dr. Jeffrey Longacre, Josh Camper, Audrey Cochran, Stephanie Sellers, Dr. Kelle Alden, Dr. Heidi Huse, Erica Bell, Lauren DiCiaula, Allen Shull, Jennifer Glass, Lynn Park, Dr. Angela Risto, Allen Pounds, Dr. Ashley Goulder, Barbara Collie, Alyssa Pettit, Michelle Peterson, Christine Byrd, Michael Adams, Reid Woods, Michael Agee, Shaun Smith and Dr. David Coffey.

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Agriculture, Geoscience and Natural Resources; **Erica Bell**, executive director of the Office of Regional Centers and Online Programs; **Anita Cannady**, director of the UTM Jackson Center; and **Dr. Simpfronia Taylor**, director of grant and community programs at the UTM Ripley Center.

Others on hand included Kyle Spurgeon of the Tennessee Board of Regents; Dr. Tachaka

Hollins, Tennessee Board of Regents assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs; Dr. JacQuene Rainey, TCAT Northwest vice president of academic affairs; and Amanda Heath, TCAT Northwest vice president of student affairs.

The Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology serve as the premier suppliers of workforce development throughout Tennessee by giving students the opportunity to acquire

marketable skills for entry into the labor market or upgrade present skills and knowledge of those already employed.

TCAT Northwest has five sites throughout West Tennessee, including the main campus in Newbern and campuses in Bells, Covington, Ripley and Union City. For information about TCAT Northwest, visit [tcatnorthwest.edu](http://tcatnorthwest.edu).

The UTM Office of Regional Centers and Online

Programs serves a wide range of students and includes the six regional centers, UT Martin Online, dual enrollment and occupational licensure. The office also oversees numerous opportunities for children and youth programs, including Kid College, Robotics, ACT Prep and others. The office is in 110 Gooch Hall. More information is available by calling 731-881-7089 or on the web at [www.utm.edu/distanceded](http://www.utm.edu/distanceded).

## You Tell Me

- **Question** - Is there a story behind the new flagpoles located across from the Student Life Center on Moody Avenue?
- **Answer** - The Grove Apartments demolition project was called "Establish Veterans Park and Demolition of Dormitories," which required the university to represent military veterans in some way at the site. This was accomplished by adding flagpoles that feature the American and remembrance flags. The location was selected based on proximity to handicap parking and the lack of grading required, which controlled the cost. The Grove demolition project paid for that work as a change order.

Submit your questions to Addenda at [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu).

# Freeman speaks at Juneteenth celebration



Chancellor Yancy Freeman (above photo) speaks at the Juneteenth celebration held June 15 at the Discovery Park of America in Union City after being introduced by his wife, Rafielle (left photo). Juneteenth – a portmanteau of the words “June” and “nineteenth” – is a holiday celebrated on June 19 to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people. The holiday was first celebrated in Texas, where on that date in 1865, in the aftermath of the Civil War, enslaved people were declared free under the terms of the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation. The date became a federal holiday in 2021 and is one of only five date-specific federal holidays, including New Year’s Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day and Christmas Day.

## In Memory

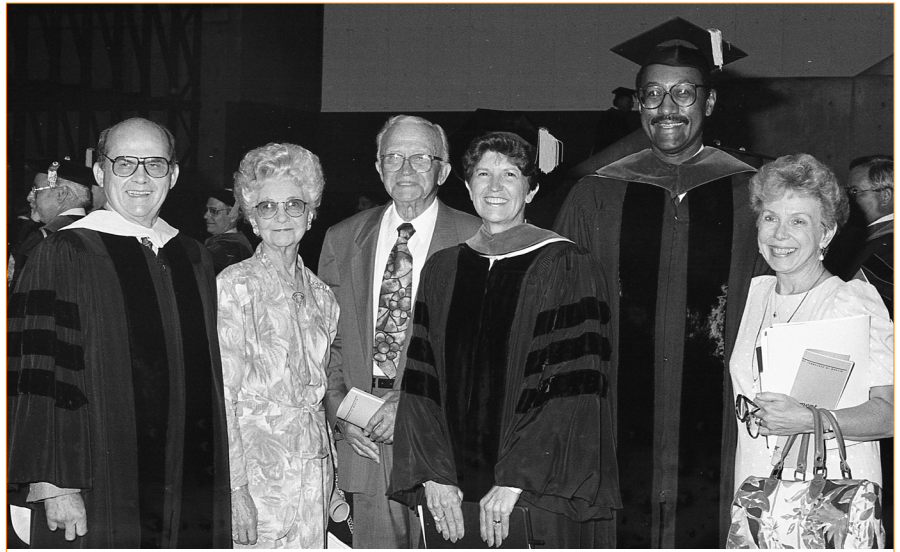
Pat Johnson, wife of the late Dr. Joe Johnson, longtime University of Tennessee administrator and president, died June 12 in Knoxville.

The Johnsons were frequent visitors through the years to UT Martin and West Tennessee and had many friends in the area.

The Joe and Pat Johnson Dietetics Fund was established in the Johnsons' honor, which supports UT Martin's annual Joe and Pat Johnson Nutrition Symposium. The symposium benefits West Tennessee dietitians and UT Martin graduate students who are studying dietetics.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, June 27, and services will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Eastern Time, June 28, both at Laurel Church of Christ in Knoxville.

The complete obituary for Pat Johnson at the Rose Mortuary website or through [this link](#). Dr. Joe Johnson died Sept. 29, 2023.



Pat Johnson is pictured at the far right in 1992 at a UT Martin commencement. Also pictured are (l-r) Dr. Joe Johnson, Ivania and Wayne Fisher, Chancellor Margaret Perry and Emmett Edwards. Fisher of Dresden served 28 years on the UT Board of Trustees, and Edwards was the first UT Martin student to serve on the UT board.

# Board of Trustees annual meeting set for June 24-25

The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees will hold its annual meetings June 24-25 in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Building located on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, campus (2431 Joe Johnson Drive).

Here is a look at the meeting schedule. All times given are Eastern Daylight Time. To convert to Central Time, subtract 1 hour.

### Monday, June 24

- 2 p.m.: Education, Research and Service Committee

- 4 p.m.: Board of Trustees

### Tuesday, June 25

- 8:30 a.m.: Finance and Administration Committee

- 10:15 a.m.: Audit and Compliance Committee (public and non-public sessions)

- 12:30 p.m.: Board of Trustees (annual meeting)

All meeting times are approximate. If a meeting ends earlier or later than expected, the next meeting may begin following a short break.

All public meetings will be webcast live and archived for later viewing; a link to the webcast will be available at [www.tennessee.edu](http://www.tennessee.edu).

Agenda items include:

- President's update
- Annual presidential performance review
- Appointment of the president of the

University of Tennessee System

- Election of the UT Board of Trustees chair of the board, plus appointment of standing committees and chairs

- Emergency Rule, Chapter 1720-01-01 (Classifying Students In-State and Out-of-State)

- FY 2024-25 operating budget (including salary plan, student tuition and fees and room and board rates)

- Capital outlay and maintenance funding requests for FY 2025-26 through FY 2029-30

- Guaranteed Admissions Policy

- UT System enrollment plan

- Title IX update

The full agenda for each meeting is available at [trustees.tennessee.edu](http://trustees.tennessee.edu).

All meeting materials will be posted in advance of the meetings and available at [trustees.tennessee.edu](http://trustees.tennessee.edu).

Requests to address the board concerning items on the meeting agenda or other issues germane to the responsibilities of the board may be submitted using the registration form available [here](#). Requests will be accepted until 5 p.m. EDT on Thursday, June 20. The board's Standing Rule Governing Requests to Address the Board (also available at the above link) describes the procedures, terms and conditions that govern requests to address the board. The Board of Trustees will notify registrants

whether they will be scheduled to speak at the meeting and, if so, the specific time and place of their presentations.

The University of Tennessee System distributes this notice to all faculty and staff as part of its compliance with the adequate public notice requirement of the state open meetings law.

## Addenda Items

- The city of Martin tests its tornado siren system at noon on the last Wednesday of each month. If this occurs during severe weather, check the local weather forecast.

- Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) events are scheduled for Friday, June 21; Tuesday, June 25 (virtual); Friday, July 12; Monday, July 22; and Friday, Aug. 2. Transfer Orientation And Registration (TOAR) sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, and Thursday, July 11.

- The next issue of Addenda will be published on Monday, July 1, as it continues its summer schedule. The newsletter will be issued every two weeks until the fall semester begins on Monday, Aug. 26. Then, it will return to its weekly schedule.

# June Spirit Award winners announced



Farley



Coalter



Darnell



Perry

**Dr. Mark Farley**, assistant professor of finance, was named the Innovation Spirit Award winner for the month of June, and three people were named to the Skyhawk Spirit Award.

**Norma Coalter**, administrative assistant for the Office of University Relations; **Barry Darnell**, building services assistant in the Office of Housing; and **Shannon Perry**, director of student conduct and care in the Division of Student Affairs, each earned the June 2024 Skyhawk Spirit Award.

Created last January, these awards seek to recognize employee contributions and actions that go above and beyond their typical duties.

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.

“Although he is a junior professor, (Farley) has been asked to undertake some very prestigious and important roles in his service to the College and UT Martin,” said one letter of nomination. “In the short time he has been employed at the university, he

led a committee of faculty in writing and submitting report forms to secure a new building for the College of Business and Global Affairs, led the diversity and equity initiative for the college, worked with the student financial case study team to garner two national first-place wins in the last three years, authored a textbook on the principles of finance, accompanied students on trips to the Federal Reserves in St. Louis and New York and traveled to Siena, Italy, on a student-recruitment endeavor.”

Another letter of nomination spoke highly of Coalter.

“Norma prepares and releases both the chancellor’s honor roll and graduation lists to the news media,” it stated. “Getting these names to the right places is a challenge, but she then takes the phone calls from students and family members for names that are omitted upon publication.

“Most calls are related to the chancellor’s honor roll, and those who call are already upset or unhappy. In many cases, the person omitted was not eligible to be listed, but Norma never loses her composure as she explains the reason for omission to each person. If a mistake occurred, which is rare, she takes responsibility and offers to resubmit the name.”

Another letter praised Darnell for his work.

“Barry was hired in February 2023 and... quickly learned his job responsibilities and performed them to a high level,” it stated. “However, that didn’t stop Barry from

consistently looking for opportunities to help more. ... Just a few short months after beginning at UTM, we had a position open for a building supervisor. This position serves as a team lead and supervisor for custodians in a given building. Barry applied for and was hired into this position with a start date in early September. In the same way Barry quickly excelled as a custodian, he has done the same as a building supervisor. He works diligently to coordinate tasks for the Ellington custodians and communicates any needs promptly to his supervisor.”

Yet another letter spoke well of Perry.

“Shannon’s innovative approach involves fostering relationships with both community and campus partners to cultivate a supportive environment for students to seek help,” it stated.

“For instance, ‘Popcorn and Prevention in the Dorms’ addresses substance abuse, alcohol and drug-related issues, while ‘Goat Snuggles’ offers anxiety-reducing activities during finals. These creative campaigns reflect Shannon’s dedication to addressing student needs in a holistic, caring and impactful manner. Shannon’s dedication extends beyond UT Martin students to also include faculty, staff and community members.”

The deadline to nominate a full-time or part-time faculty or staff member for these monthly awards is the end of the day on Friday, July 6. Letters of nomination should be sent to [skyhawkspiritaward@utm.edu](mailto:skyhawkspiritaward@utm.edu).

## addenda

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