

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | July 1 2024

## New campus officers sworn in



Shown with Chancellor Yancy Freeman (second from left) and newly sworn-in officers (L-R) Officer Jeff Matthews, Sgt. Allen Walker and Officer Deanna Fullington. The officers were sworn in June 17 by Martin Mayor Randy Brundige, then later by Freeman.

## UTM hosts Governor's Schools for Humanities, Ag Sciences

UT Martin continues its summer tradition of inviting qualified students to take part in its two special programs: the Tennessee Governor's School for Humanities and the Tennessee Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences.

The Governor's School for the Humanities began at UT Martin in 1985 with a multi-disciplinary program, a pilot project directed by Gov. Lamar Alexander and funded by the Tennessee Legislature.

Due to the success of that program, in 1986, the Legislature funded four separate programs: the Governor's School for the

Humanities at UT Martin, the Governors School for the Arts at Middle Tennessee State University, the Governor's School for International Studies at the University of Memphis (then known as Memphis State University) and the Governor's School for the Sciences at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

"Now, there are 11 different schools, including two that are here (at UT Martin)," said **Dr. Jerald Ogg**, UTM professor of mass media and strategic communication and director of the Governor's School for the Humanities since 2001.

All of those programs take applications from upcoming high school juniors and seniors and enable them to take a college course for credit and get a feel for living on a college campus. The program cost is covered by a grant, so the experience is free for the students.

The Governor's School for the Humanities takes up to 40 students who are interested in the humanities and humanities-adjacent subjects like English, history, political science and public speaking.

The classes and seminars involve several

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# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

**Dr. Jason Roberts**, professor of animal science, and **Dr. Brittany Cole**, assistant professor of finance, mentored University Scholars student Ainsley Watt to a successful defense of her senior research project, Man’s Best Friend or Best Study Buddy: Student Classroom Performance and Canine Interaction, at the end of the spring semester.



**Roberts**

The paper studies the benefit of utilizing a dog in the classroom to reduce student exam anxiety and improve student exam performance. The paper uses data from 11 semesters in three

different finance courses, and the results show that students who interact with the dog before their exam out-perform students



**Cole**

who do not interact pre-exam.

These results are consistent across multiple sections, classes, genders and grade levels of

students. As universities work toward making their campuses more welcoming and fostering student success, the paper provides valuable implications for possible success tools in the classroom.

During the defense, Watt presented her research, fielded questions and provided a summary of her learning outcomes. Plans for the project are for Roberts and Cole to publish the project with Watt as she continues her education at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in fall 2024.

**Dr. Cooper Johnson**, and **Dr. Jamye Long**, both associate professors of management, joined Go Cloud Careers in their Executive Architect Program’s special training on the topics of organizational mission statements, vision statements and business plans.

their knowledge of the value and purpose of mission and vision statements, the workings of business plans, advice and best practices for creating a business plan that will draw interest and enthusiasm from investors and examples of successful companies and how they have utilized their mission and vision statements to build their brands.

Participants were invited to join the speakers as they shared



**Johnson**



**Long**

**Conrad Pegues**, assistant professor in the Paul Meek Library, has two publications released this month available on Amazon.



**Pegues**

“Black Fire This Time: Volume 2” is an anthology of African-American writers old and new covering issues impacting the African-American community.

“Cultural Humility in Libraries” looks at the issues of practicing the concept of cultural humility in meeting the needs of various historically

disenfranchised groups and their library needs.



### 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 Independence Day (July 4). For more information, call the Paul Meek Library at 731-881-7065.

*Promote a faculty or staff member by sending a YoUTM to [addenda@utm.edu!](mailto:addenda@utm.edu)*

# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Artificial intelligence, especially ChatGPT, is being used at UTM by faculty and students.

**Dr. Harriette L. Spiegel**, lecturer, and **Dr. Alisa Wilson**, assistant professor, both in the Department of Educational Studies, collected qualitative data on both sets of participants and presented their findings, “Artificial Intelligence A Tool For Learning: Embracing New Tools” at the 17th International

Conference on e-Learning and Innovative Pedagogies on March 7 at Polytechnic University of Valencia in Valencia, Spain.

Wilson presented her mixed-methods research on the relationship between teacher absenteeism and student achievement on the Tennessee Ready achievement test in the Southeast region of Tennessee at the 26th annual International Conference on Education on May 21 in Athens, Greece.



Spiegel



Wilson



Stewart

**Hannah Stewart**, assistant director for marketing in the Office of University Relations, is a member of the Pick UT campaign committee.

UT President Randy Boyd’s 2024 objectives include the development and execution of the next iteration of the “Everywhere You Look, UT” marketing campaign to include an angle that promotes UT’s accessibility, availability and

unique characteristics to optimize enrollment at all UT campuses.

This committee will work together to evolve the “Everywhere You Look, UT” marketing campaign to include an angle that raises awareness of all UT campuses and encourages prospective students to pick a UT campus.

Committee members will participate in discussions and

brainstorming sessions to determine the most effective opportunities to optimize enrollment at all UT campuses and ensure their campus’s representation is on-brand with their current efforts.

This group will work together to determine which activities will be performed by the UT System and which activities will be performed at the campus level.

## UT Press seeks volunteers for editorial board

The University of Tennessee Press is seeking volunteers for its editorial board.

This engaging opportunity allows faculty members to influence scholarship and help determine the direction of the press’s publishing program.

Board members have two responsibilities: to assist the press director and staff in the

acquisition and evaluation of manuscripts and to ensure that all publications of the press meet the standards of scholarship, thought, judgment and taste appropriate to a major university and research institution.

The board meets formally a minimum of three times per year.

## Library to host murder mystery

Get ready to put your detective skills to the test at an exciting Murder Mystery event from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., July 26, at the Paul Meek Library patio.

Dive into an afternoon of intrigue and fun as you work together to solve a captivating case.

Enjoy this unique opportunity to engage with fellow mystery enthusiasts and experience the library as never before.



## Deadline for July Skyhawk Spirit Award nominees is Friday

The deadline for turning in nominations for this month’s Skyhawk Spirit award is Friday, July 5.

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

Criteria for the award are:

- Performance substantially beyond expectation on a specific assignment or task
- Contributions that have a significant impact on department or university objectives

- Extraordinary efforts above and beyond the normal responsibilities of the position
- An employee who uses initiative and creativity to solve a challenging problem.

Nominations should be sent to [skyhawkspiritaward@utm.edu](mailto:skyhawkspiritaward@utm.edu).

# UTM students visit Tokyo, Hirosaki University



Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese, and Chuck Hammond, professor of German, both in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, led 19 students to Japan from May 28 to June 6 on 10-day travel-study. The students visited Hirosaki University, UTM's first partner university in Japan, learned the history of Hirosaki castle and conducted group discussions with students from Hirosaki University. Following the stay in Hirosaki, the group traveled to Tokyo, where it explored the capital for several days before returning home.

## Pavilion hosts inaugural trailer fabrication workshop

UT Martin hosted its first trailer-building workshop for area high school agriculture teachers June 27-28 at the West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion.

The workshop brought in 24 teachers from Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky and Louisiana.

Dr. Will Bird, associate professor of agricultural education, said he attended a similar workshop last year at Southern Arkansas University.

"I just wanted to go to it as a professional development," he said. "I teach an ag mechanics class, and I wanted to get better at putting things together and building

things as opposed to welding and the basic skills."

That workshop was run by Dr. Trent Wells, who is now an associate professor of agricultural education at Murray State University. He spoke with Bird after the workshop and offered to help him put on a similar workshop at UT Martin.

Dr. Steven Chumbley, associate professor of agriculture education and mechanics at Texas A&M-Kingsville, was also brought to UT Martin to help with the workshop.

Bird said the workshop is to help area high school agriculture teachers gain more experience and to better learn the industry standards for putting together complex

objects like a trailer to pull behind a vehicle.

"The principles can be used to make an even bigger, more complex project," he said. "When these teachers leave here, they'll have all the resources and skills they need to go back and teach students how to build trailers and other things."

Bird said that he and Wells talked about alternating sites between their respective universities for future workshops each year.

"We're going to do a more complex, larger trailer, and it's going to be a four-day workshop," Bird said. "I'm going to help him with that up there at Murray State next year."

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## You Tell Me

• **Question** – What caused the areas of dead grass at several spots on the quad – mostly near Holt Humanities?

• **Answer** – This situation is related to underground steam lines. A deep underground leak has also developed in that vicinity, too, which is contributing to the issue. Repair of the leak is scheduled in the next few weeks depending on weather. The hope is that green grass will return after the leak is repaired. So why is steam still needed in the summer? Even though the main steam plant isn't operating, steam still must be sent around for reheat to the buildings, which keeps the spaces from over cooling. Strange as this might sound, it helps to maintain building set points. Currently, steam from the boiler at the Latimer-Smith Building is sent to Business Administration, Gooch Hall and Holt Humanities because the boiler there is so large

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



Faculty members working with the Governor's School for the Humanities include (L-R) Tomi McCutchen, instructor in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication; Dr. Robert Nanney, chair of the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication; Dr. Jerald Ogg, director of the Governor's School for the Humanities and professor in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication; Dr. Carrie Humphreys, associate professor of political science; Dr. Chris Baxter, professor of political science; Dr. Chris Hill, associate professor of English; Dr. David Coffey, chair of the Department of History and Philosophy; Dr. Jessica Beckham, assistant professor in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication; and Sarah Haig, interim chair of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts. Not pictured is Dr. Chris Brown, professor of philosophy.

## GOVERNOR'S from PAGE 1

other UTM faculty members.

"What the students are doing is taking one credit class in the morning at 9:15, then they segue to a non-credit class for no academic credit at 11," Ogg said. "In the afternoon, they are at seminars with more creative kinds of things.

"They may put together a newspaper – **Dr. Robert Nanney** (chair of the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication) takes care of that. **Tomi McCutchen** (instructor in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication) does a yearbook, and we've got a seminar called '2-Minute Theater,' where **Sarah Haig** (interim chair of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts) has students take movies and turn them into 2-minute productions that they do at the end of the program."

The Governor's School programs also seek to provide high school upperclassmen

with an on-campus college life experience, with students living in residence halls and eating at the cafeteria.

Ogg added that the experience helps the students grow into better students even before they come to campus as collegians.

The Governor's School for the Humanities ran June 2-28.

The Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences began at UT Martin in 2004, averaging 32 to 36 participants each year.

Like they do with the Governor's School for the Humanities, students taking part in the Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences can take a college-level course, earning three credit-hours.

"They can pick between taking an introduction to ag business course or they can take an introduction to wildlife biology course," said **Dr. Joey Mehlhorn**, professor of agricultural economics who directs the Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences.

"Half of their day is in class,

and the other half is what we call group-study projects. We put them into research groups. One of them is a veterinary science group, which the bulk of our students want to be – veterinarians. I'd say of the 32 students we have this year, 20 of them want to be veterinarians, and that's been consistent since we started in 2004."

The other study group is called precision agriculture, which is made up of agricultural engineering, plant science and similar studies.

"They do a lot of drone technology and irrigation technology," Mehlhorn said.

Mehlhorn said one of the UT Martin faculty members has come full-circle with the Governor's School.

"**Amber Moore** came here as a Governor's School student," he said. "She went to school at UT Martin, went to Knoxville to vet school, practiced some, and now, she is here as an assistant professor in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and

Natural Resources, and she is working with Governor's School – which is so cool."

This year, there were five students who attend school in Italy who took part in the Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences as guests of the UTM Department of Agriculture.

Mehlhorn said the Italian students attend an agricultural high school, and two of them want to be veterinarians.

"This is the first time we've been able to do something like this," he said. "There was a unique opportunity with our UT Martin in Siena program for some of them to come over for the summer, so we set it up to happen during our Governor's School program."

Mehlhorn said there are only three Governor's Schools for the Agricultural Sciences in the nation, including programs at Penn State and Virginia Tech.

This year's Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences ran from May 27 to June 21.

# Schlicht named to UTFI President's Award

**Jennifer Schlicht**, who serves on University of Tennessee Foundation Inc. (UTFI) staff at the University of Tennessee at Martin, was one of six recipients of the 2024 UTFI President's Award presented at a ceremony May 20 at the Embassy Suites in Franklin during the UT Foundation Fiscal Year 2025 Planning Forum.

Schlicht is the executive assistant to **Jeanna Curtis-Swofford**, the vice chancellor for university advancement. While the UTFI consists of staffs from all five of the UT System universities, it is a separate entity from those universities, serving as an interdependent nonprofit corporation to raise financial, public and political support for the UT System.

Schlicht has more than 20 years of UT Martin service and joined UTFI in November 2021. She previously worked for the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking – housed in the UTM College of Business and Global Affairs – for 17 years.

Before joining the UT Foundation, she served as the assistant to the dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs for a year and a half.

Schlicht said she was surprised to find that she had won the UTFI President's Award.

"I thought I was in attendance for a workshop with the executive leadership team," she said. "We had a dinner on the first evening, and my name was called, and I was very shocked.

"I'm very humbled and very honored. The

UT Foundation is a wonderful organization to work for."

In the video made for the award ceremony, several of the people that Schlicht works with gave their reasons for supporting her nomination for the award.

"Jennifer has a uniqueness that is what I consider a quiet strength about her," said Curtis-Swofford. "She very rarely ever speaks loudly, but her work speaks volumes about what she feels about what she does."

Curtis-Swofford added that Schlicht, a former basketball player at Dresden High School, continues to give back to her community. Schlicht has served on the Weakley County Sports Hall of Fame Board, was president of the Dresden Quarterback Club, and has directed the annual Dresden Iris Festival.

"I think Jennifer is just a born leader," said **Ben Jones**, UTM director of development. "She's hard-working, she is very thorough and she is very determined. Jennifer has that 'get-it-done' mentality. Whether it's coordinating events or budget planning or anything to assist any other team member, you can always count on Jennifer to help get things done.

"When she transitioned over to the UT Foundation and our advancement and development team, it was a great loss to the College of Business and Global Affairs. Those folks over there loved her and respected her – and they still do. Jennifer has brought those same exact qualities to our team to help us grow and become



**Jennifer Schlicht is shown with UTFI President and CEO Kerry Witcher at the presentation of the UTFI President's Award.**

stronger and a better team."

The University of Tennessee Foundation Inc. President's Award recognizes outstanding achievements by advancement staff in applying creative concepts to improving performance, advancing fundraising and alumni engagement efforts and promoting a better understanding of the systemwide advancement activities and asset management services of the UT Foundation.

## WORKSHOP from PAGE 4

Bird said many of the attending teachers are in their first five years of teaching.

"I remember what that was like," he said. "No matter how much you do, how many classes you take and things you do in college, in your first couple of years teaching, you just never know quite enough.

"It's really fun to watch these young teachers figure out

that not only can they do this, but they can teach students how to do this. There is some confidence-building that goes along with it."

Bird said the workshop also serves as a means of outreach to the teachers in the region and beyond.

The trailers being built are 6-by-10-foot trailers made of mild steel.

"The trailers we're building

will be raffled off," Bird said. "This will be a way to raise money for scholarships for UTM ag education students. We started an ag education endowment scholarship recently.

"My plan is to raffle the first one off at Homecoming and another one, maybe, at the state FFA convention this next spring. So, they're going to be put to good use."



## addenda

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