

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | July 29, 2024

## UTM to host 26th annual Ag Finance Conference

The 26th annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference will be held Aug. 7 in Watkins Auditorium.

The Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking in the College of Business and Global Affairs, along with the Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in Food and Fiber in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, have hosted the Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference since 1999.

The Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference provides the most up-to-date and relevant information needed to grow agricultural bottom lines. The mission of the conference is to deliver high-quality, timely, practical financial tools and economic information to anyone with significant investments in agriculture.

This conference has the most renowned and respected agricultural finance, economic and weather experts in the U.S., and this year's conference is no exception.

Guest speakers for the 2024 conference include Dr. David M. Kohl, professor

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**Dr. David Kohl of Virginia Tech University, who has taken part in each of the Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference at UT Martin, is shown speaking at last year's event in Watkins Auditorium. This year's event will take place on Aug. 7, with registration running through July 31.**

## UT Foundation sets single-year fundraising record

The University of Tennessee Foundation Inc. reached a pinnacle fundraising mark in fiscal year 2024 as commitment totals surpassed \$400 million for the first time in University of Tennessee System history. This surpasses the previous record of \$397 million set in fiscal year 2018.

"We celebrate this milestone alongside the more than 86,000 alumni and friends who pledged their support for opportunity, growth and the future of higher education," said UT Foundation President Kerry Witcher. "The philanthropic passion of our donors, coupled with the academic excellence throughout our campuses and institutes drives our mission forward and

will impact students for generations to come."

In fiscal year 2024, the UT Foundation raised \$430,338,113. This collective total consists of \$60 million raised at UT Chattanooga, \$24 million at the UT Health Science Center, \$332 million at UT Knoxville (which includes \$18.9 million from the UT Institute of Agriculture), \$6 million at UT Martin and \$6 million at UT Southern.

"The UT Martin Division of University Advancement is proud to be part of the UT Foundation and the impactful work we do collaboratively," said **Jeanna Curtis-Swofford**, UTM vice chancellor of

advancement. "We are fortunate to work with Chancellor Freeman and other campus leaders whose support is imperative to our success."

The totals include \$55.8 million designated for student scholarships and record-breaking fundraising at UT Chattanooga, UT Southern and UT Knoxville.

The year is highlighted by a transformational gift at UT Chattanooga that, in conjunction with funding support from the Tennessee General Assembly, will renovate and expand Fletcher Hall, home to the Gary W. Rollins College of Business.

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# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Haddad

Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance, presented “Risk-Adjusted Return Comparison Between Ethisphere Listed and Non-Listed Ethical Companies” at the Western Economic Association International’s 99th annual conference June 29-July 3 in Seattle.

Co-authors are Dr. Laura Hatch, assistant professor of accounting, and Dr. Nell



Hatch

Gullett, professor of finance. Ethisphere assesses five criteria to compute a company’s Ethics Quotient, or EQ score: the ethics and compliance program, culture of ethics, environmental and societal impact, governance and leadership and reputation.

Companies with the highest EQ scores earn a spot on the prestigious annual listing of the World’s Most Ethical Companies.



Gullett

The risk-adjusted returns for companies on the list and for non-listed companies were calculated using the Sharpe ratio, Treynor ratio and Jensen Alpha.

The portfolio comprised of the companies on the Ethisphere list of the World’s Most Ethical Companies outperformed the market which indicates a company should strive to meet the Ethisphere criteria for the benefit of its stakeholders.

Dr. Patrick Baker, associate professor in the Department of Accounting, Economics, Finance and Political Science, contributed to the article “What is Financial Abuse?” in MarketWatch Guides on June 28.

The article can be found [here](#).

Baker joined nine other contributors in compiling the article.

“Seniors are extremely susceptible to financial scams or fraud that impersonates the government or legitimate companies,” he said. “Another strategy is for the scammer to imitate a friend or loved one in need with the hope the senior citizen will let his or her guard down. Finally, criminals target seniors’ lack of knowledge regarding technology by manufacturing computer scams.”

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



Johnson

Brian Johnson, lecturer and chair of the Department of Psychology, played the role of Sir Tob Belch at Market House Theatre’s production of William Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night, or What You Will” on July 12-14 in Paducah, Kentucky.

This production was MHT’s annual “Bard in the (Court) Yard” show.



Baker

## Deadline for August Skyhawk Spirit Award nominees is Friday

The deadline for turning in nominations for the August Skyhawk Spirit award is Friday, Aug. 2.

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).

Read more UT Martin news at [news.utm.edu](http://news.utm.edu)



# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



## Taylor presents with Chattanooga panel

Dr. **Simpfronia Taylor**, director of grant and community programs at the UT Martin Ripley Center, presented as part of a panel at the Tennessee Digital Opportunity Summit on July 23 at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

Taylor took part in the panel “Closing the Digital Divide in Rural Tennessee.” She shared the processes that UT

Martin put in place during the pandemic to provide access to the internet for students and the \$343,640 two-year digital skills grant received by the Ripley Center in May.

Taylor said that Tennessee has announcements for more broadband funding on its Economic and Community Development website found [here](#).

## Media makerspace to host open house

The newly renovated media makerspace on the first floor of the Paul Meek Library will host an open house from 2 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31.

Visitors are invited to come and go at their leisure to learn more about the makerspace.

A photo booth will be available, and door prizes will

be awarded while supplies last.

The open house will have a beach theme, and visitors are invited to wear coastal or beachy attire.

For information about the media makerspace or the open house, contact Patricia Sanders, media and makerspace manager, at [psander9@utm.edu](mailto:psander9@utm.edu).



## AG FINANCE from PAGE 1

emeritus at Virginia Tech University, who has taken part in each Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference; Richard Brock, owner and president of Brock Associates; Dr. Eric Snodgrass, principal atmospheric scientist at Nutrien Ag Solutions; and Dr. Brian Briggerman, professor in the College of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University.

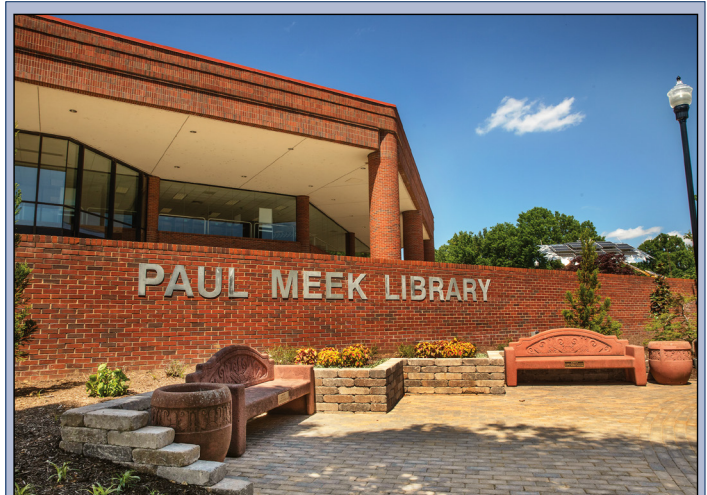
“The Mid-South Ag Finance Conference brings important information to agriculture producers, lender and agribusinesses in our region,” said Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in Food and Fiber in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences. “Agriculture is the largest industry in the state of

Tennessee, and the information delivered allows leaders to make informed decisions in all aspects of agriculture.

“U.S. agriculture faces a great deal of uncertainty surrounding economic and agronomic issues. Attendees will be given current information and tools to help deal with these uncertain times and a chance to connect and network with other producers and agribusiness providers in the region.”

Registration for the event has already begun and will go through July 31. Registration information and options can be found [here](#).

For more information, contact Traci Crawford, Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference director, at 731-881-7350 or at [tcrawf19@utm.edu](mailto:tcrawf19@utm.edu).



**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.

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



# Staff earn Student Leadership Challenge certification



Staff from Student Affairs and Information Technology Services completed the Student Leadership Challenge Trainer Certification Workshop. These participants are now certified to lead students through the Student Leadership Challenge course. The course provides five essential leadership practices, 10 leadership commitments and 30 leadership behaviors that are applicable to all leadership roles. Staff will use this certification to teach this leadership model to their student staff and develop a leadership program for UTM students. Completing the certification program are (front row, L-R) John Abel, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs; Brandon Keller, clinical case manager; Demetrius Robinson, director of the Office of Career Planning and Development; Rachel Martin, director of the Office of Student Life; Ashney Williams, assistant director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs; Kim Olive-Milligan, assistant director of the Office of Campus Recreation; (middle row, L-R) Ron Siers, Student Leadership Challenge master facilitator; Laura Kepler, assistant director of the Office of Housing; John'Na Webster, health and wellness educator in the Office of Student Health and Counseling Services; Katie Mantooh, assistant director in the Office of Career Planning and Development; Eric Simmons, director of the Office of Campus Recreation; (back row, L-R) Kameron Echols, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs; Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs; Olivia Fernandez, director of the Office of Information Technology Services; Greg Allen, Student Leadership Challenge master facilitator; and Peyton Wolfe, intramurals coordinator in the Office of Campus Recreation.

## You Tell Me

- **Question** – Why does intercollegiate athletics now operate the West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion?
- **Answer** – Intercollegiate athletics assumed responsibility for West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion operations starting in the 2023-24 academic year. Athletics is more adequately staffed to manage pavilion events, sell tickets online and operate concessions, which will create a more seamless experience and provide additional revenue to athletics. The pavilion is already home to the Skyhawk rodeo and equestrian teams. Expect to see more varied events in the pavilion in the coming year that will welcome additional visitors to campus.

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



# Tennessee comptroller visits UT Martin campus



Jason Mumpower, Tennessee's 35th comptroller of the treasury, visited the UT Martin campus with UT President Randy Boyd on July 25 following a stop at the Milan No-Till Field Day. Mumpower – a native of Bristol, Tennessee – met with university officials and academic deans, toured the teaching farm and joined students and others for lunch in the Dunagan Alumni Center in his first visit to the campus. Pictured are (L-R) Maria Hudson, a May 2024 finance graduate from Knoxville; Parker Ferrell, a senior accounting major from Dresden; Art Sparks, principal, ATA Union City, and UT Martin Advisory Board member and chair; Randy Boyd, University of Tennessee president; Jason Mumpower; Dr. Yancy Freeman Sr., UT Martin chancellor; Omaria Crutchfield, a senior finance major from Olive Branch, Mississippi, who lives in Memphis; and Petra McPhearson, senior vice chancellor for finance and administration.

## UT FOUNDATION from PAGE 1

A gift of 600 acres, bequeathed by the late Dr. Bruce Wilson, marked the largest gift in UT Southern history, and UT Knoxville closed out the year with the naming of the Natalie L. Haslam College of Music, honoring one of the university's most generous benefactors.

"I am incredibly proud of our dedicated team across the university, whose hard work and passion have driven us to this historic milestone," said UT System President Randy

Boyd. "I'm incredibly thankful to our alumni and donors for their unwavering belief in the future of UT. Their generosity and support are what make this achievement possible, and we are excited to continue building a brighter future together as we make this the greatest decade in the history of UT."

The surge in fundraising was supported by 86,751 donors across the UT System. At the close of FY 2024, the UT System boasted 439,807 alumni, of which 67% have remained

connected to the university through events, philanthropic initiatives and activities.

The foundation's mission is to raise financial and public support for the University of Tennessee. A nonprofit corporation, the foundation helps meet the needs of the University by augmenting state and institutional funds, and enriching the lives of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.

The University of Tennessee System raises funds through

the University of Tennessee Foundation, an independent nonprofit corporation that seeks to enrich the lives of UT students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends through alumni engagement, financial stewardship and private investments. The Foundation is the preferred channel for all private contributions benefiting faculty and students at the University of Tennessee System.

For more information about the UT Foundation, visit [www.utfi.org](http://www.utfi.org).



# Rodeo 101 taught at Executive Leadership Institute



Tarah Keeler (left), UT Knoxville interim associate vice chancellor and chief human resources officer, participates in Rodeo 101 as part of the UT Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) summer session, July 17-18, at UT Martin. Rodeo coach Chase Thrasher (right) and members of the team discussed and demonstrated rodeo events for members of the ELI class, which includes UT Martin representatives Dr. Jackie Johnson, associate vice chancellor for university advancement, and Dr. Danny Pirtle, associate professor of criminal justice. The ELI develops executive leaders for the needs of the UT System. The institute targets leadership requirements for those already holding executive positions or individuals who show high potential for succession to an executive position.

# Statewide 4-H Roundup held at UT Martin

The annual Tennessee 4-H Roundup and State 4-H All Star Conference began its second century of service to statewide youth July 15-19 at UT Martin with the 101st roundup. The event serves to recognize 4-H members for their outstanding project work and leadership accomplishments. The State All Star Conference is a part of the Roundup program. All Stars conduct service-learning projects and recognize outstanding service projects.



# Care Team to host boot camp for student well-being

The UT Martin care Team will host a supporting student well-being resource boot camp on Wednesday, Aug. 7, in the Smith Legislative Chamber, Room 111 of the Boling University Center.

The boot camp will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Those interested in taking part should register as soon as possible.

The boot camp will focus on supporting student well-being, providing training to help faculty and staff prepare for the fall 2024

semester. Participants may come and go throughout the day or stay for the entire boot camp. Zoom connections are also available.

Topics for the boot camp include: Knowing Your “Why,” The Belonging Box: Building Belonging Through Engagement, Hope for Northwest Tennessee, Mental Health and



Suicide, Creating a Universally Acceptable Campus and more.

Guest speakers include Shannon Perry, Kameron Echols, Alicia Maya Anderson, Dr. Renee LeFleur, Emily Jernigan, Keith Jernigan, Ashney Williams, Tony Buford II and more.

To register, visit [here](#) or scan the QR code in this article.

## addenda

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