

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Aug. 12, 2024

## UTM hosts inaugural Forage Info Day



Dr. Issac Lepcha (at right), lecturer of plant and soil science, coordinated UT Martin's inaugural Forage Info Day on Aug. 1. The field day began on the campus of UT Martin before moving to the BERG Livestock Farm owned and operated by UTM alumni and former instructors Dr. Emalee Buttrey and Brad Buttrey. The event was intended to showcase forage production and management research for area livestock producers. It brought 28 people from around the area.

## Walker is Faculty Senate president for 2024-25

Dr. Dan McDonough, professor of history, has completed his year as UTM Faculty Senate president and his corresponding service as a member of the UT System University Faculty Council and UTM Chancellor's Cabinet.

McDonough will now serve a two-year term on the UTM Advisory Board as the faculty representative.

Dr. Jessie Thoman of the music department was the next elected faculty senate president, but accepted a position at another university, so Dr. Sean Walker,



McDonough

professor of management, slated to serve as president-elect, will now serve in her place as senate president and member of the



Walker

chancellor's cabinet for the upcoming academic year.

Walker previously served as faculty senate president in



Sellars

2020-21 and then completed an elected three-year term with the university faculty council as

Continued on PAGE 6



# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



**Delmond**



**Garcia**



**Mehlhorn**



**Parrott**



**Pruitt**



**Tewari**

UTM faculty presented their Scholarship of Teaching and Learning research at the annual meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association on July 29 in New Orleans.

In a track session, “Making Group Projects Feel Less Like Work,” **Dr. Anthony Delmond**, associate professor of agricultural economics, presented collaborative research on utilizing games in

the curriculum to teach more complex concepts.

The research – conducted with **Jessica Crews Garcia**, lecturer of agricultural economics; and **Dr. Joey Mehlhorn**, professor of agricultural economics; **Dr. Scott Parrott**, professor of agricultural economics; **Dr. Ross Pruitt**, professor of agricultural economics; and **Dr. Rachna Tewari**, associate professor of

agricultural economics – was titled “Introducing New College Students to Complex Topics through Gamification: An Assessment.”

Essentially, the project found that smaller groups participating in games tend to improve learning outcomes, and that students’ perception of learning does not necessarily match their actual learning outcomes.

**Dr. Derrick Shepard**, assistant professor in the College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, recently published an article, “Effective student remediation in synchronous and asynchronous programs,” in the *Journal of Technology in Counselor Education and Supervision*.

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

The article discusses best practices for remediating problematic student behavior in an online teaching environment.



**Shepard**

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

**Dr. Jamye Long** and **Dr. Cooper Johnson**, both professors of management, led a training titled “Executive Excellence: Quality Leaders and the Decision-Making Process” for GoCloud Career’s cloud architect executive leadership program.

The session guided participants through the process leaders undergo as they make quality, reliable decisions that impact their organizations and their workforces.

Included were discussions on



**Long**

the nature of decision making, types of decisions, steps in the decision-making process and



**Johnson**

advantages and disadvantages of group and team decision making.

The session allowed participants to engage with questions and comments and provided opportunities for them to share their experiences.

Questions covered topics such as advice as to how to gain confidence in oneself while making difficult decisions, soliciting feedback from others in ways that will increase openness and willingness to participate and advanced decision-making skills related to the use of technology.

# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



**Montgomery**

**Dr. Robbie Montgomery**, professor of chemistry and chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics; **Dr. Amanda Burkhardt**, assistant professor of chemistry; and **Dr. Verna Baron**, assistant professor of chemistry, attended the biennial Conference on Chemical



**Burkhardt**

Education, held July 28-31 at the University of Kentucky. Baron gave two separate presentations, "A Slower Paced Two-Semester Sequence for the Completion of General Chemistry" and "An Inquiry Based Friedel-Crafts Acylation Experiment, Utilizing a Greener



**Baron**

Approach." Burkhardt gave a presentation called "Factors Influencing Success in a Traditional General Chemistry Sequence versus a Sequence Spread over Three Semesters" that was co-authored by Montgomery and **Dr. Justin**



**Sims**

**Sims**, associate professor of mathematics and statistics. In addition to their presentations, the trio attended workshops and symposia to learn new strategies and practices when teaching in the chemistry classroom.

**Dr. Adnan Rasool** and **Dr. Carrie Humphreys**, both associate professors of political science, have been chosen to participate in the highly competitive UT System Administration Leadership Institute's 2025 cohort.

The program, designed to cultivate the next generation of university leaders, offers a rigorous curriculum focused on developing essential leadership skills.

With a limited enrollment of 40 to 50 participants, the institute is highly selective and attracts top talent from across the UT system.

This year's cohort will join a distinguished group of alumni who have made significant contributions to higher education in Tennessee.

For more information on the UT System Administration Leadership Institute, visit [this site](#).



**Rasool**



**Humphreys**

## Upcoming Campus Events

### Tuesday, Aug. 20

- Working with Neurodiverse Students (workshop), 2-4 p.m., Duncan Ballroom, Boling University Center.
- Faculty/staff active shooter training, 8-10 a.m., Campbell Auditorium, 121 Holt Humanities Building.

### WELCOME WEEKEND

#### Thursday, Aug. 22

- Move-In Day
- Legacy Luncheon, noon, Paul Meek Library

- Welcome Back Picnic, 6 p.m., Ellington Hall and Conner Community residence facility lawns.

### Friday, Aug. 23

- Convocation, 10 a.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- Housing block party, 7 p.m., Connor Community residence facility lawn.

### Monday, Aug. 26

- First day of classes for fall 2024

### Tuesday, Aug. 27

- Campus involvement fair, 4:30-6:30 p.m., quad

### Wednesday, Aug. 28

- Arthur Brooks and Michael Oher, 2:30 p.m., Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center

*Events are subject to cancellation; dates and times are subject to change.*



## YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

**Dr. Mahmoud Haddad**, professor of finance, was featured in WalletHub's recent story about Progressive Insurance.

The story and related Q&A with Haddad can be found online [here](#).

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



Haddad

**Bridgette Whitt**, assistant professor and acquisitions librarian at the Paul Meek Library, has had an article, "Academic Librarians with Disabilities: A Literature Review," published in the latest issue of *The Southeastern Librarian*, Vol. 72, No. 2 (Summer 2024).

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



Whitt



Shown are members of the UT Martin contingent at the national Alpha Gamma Rho agricultural fraternity convention Aug. 1-3 in Sacramento, California. Those in attendance were (L-R) Dr. Todd Winters, faculty advisor; Jackson Hughes; Macon Barrow, Noble Ruler; Rex Martin, AGR executive director; Jerrie Conley, housemother; Houston Batey; Riley Qualls; and Russ Bragg, alumni advisor. Winters was elected to the national board of directors for a six-year term.

## UTM AGR Chapter earns high honors at convention

At the recent national convention of Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) Agricultural Fraternity, **Dr. Todd Winters**, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, was elected to the national board of directors for a six-year term.

The convention was held Aug. 1-3 in Sacramento, California.

Winters, a professor of animal science, currently serves as the faculty advisor of the UT Martin Chapter of AGR and was initiated in 1980 by the chapter at Washington State University.



Winters

The UT Martin Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity was also honored with the Maynard H. Coe Award,

presented to the chapter that has consistently maintained the highest level of chapter operations since the last biennial convention. It is the top award given by the fraternity.

The UT Martin chapter was honored with the following annual awards:

- Housemother Jerrie Conley received the Housemother Social and Cultural Development Award (the highest honor).
- The chapter was honored with the Continued Alumni Engagement Award.
- Alumni advisor Russ Bragg

received the Outstanding Advisor Award.

• Two-term Noble Ruler (president) Macon Barrow, a senior in agricultural engineering technology, received the AGR Excellence Scholarship as one of the four top brothers in the fraternity.

• The chapter was honored with the Chapter Communications Award.

• The chapter received the Gold Chapter Award for exceeding expectations for chapter excellence.

## Brooks, Oher to speak on UT Martin campus Aug. 28

Harvard professor and best-selling author Dr. Arthur C. Brooks and Michael Oher, the former Tennessee Titan and member of the Baltimore Ravens team that won Super Bowl XLVII, are coming to the University of Tennessee at Martin on Wednesday, Aug. 28, to speak to students and the public.

The event is sponsored by the Institute of American Civics and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Brooks and Oher will have a meet-and-greet session at 11 a.m. in Room 206 of the Boling University Center with a select group of university, faculty, staff and student administrators as well as media members. The opening 25 minutes will feature remarks from the two speakers, and the floor will then be opened for questions for 20 minutes.

At noon, the two will speak in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center to UT Martin students, with Oher making introductory remarks for Brooks, who will deliver a traditional keynote speech called “Build the Life You Want.”

Brooks will speak to the public at 2:30 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center, where the keynote address will be “Love Your Enemies.” This session is open to all faculty, staff and community members. Admission is free for this session.

Brooks is a professor at the Harvard Kennedy School and the Harvard Business School, where he teaches courses on leadership and happiness. He is also a columnist at The Atlantic, where he writes the popular weekly “How to Build a Life” column.

Brooks is the No. 1 New York Times bestselling author of 13 books, including



Brooks

“Build the Life You Want” – co-authored with Oprah Winfrey in 2023 – and “From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life.”

Brooks is one of the world’s leading experts on the science of human happiness, appearing in the media and traveling the world to teach people in private companies, universities, public agencies and faith communities how they can live happier lives and bring greater well-being to others.

Outside of his NFL career, Oher is best known as the subject of the movie “The Blind Side,” which is about his experience in overcoming economic, academic and life challenges to play football for the University of Mississippi and then at the professional level.

With his personal experience of poverty and homelessness, Oher now dedicates his life to supporting disadvantaged youth through his charity, the Oher Foundation,



Oher

which empowers youth with opportunities in education, mentorship and community support.

Oher was able to navigate the hardships of life as a foster kid who went from the streets of Memphis all the way to the NFL. He became a two-time all-American at the University of Mississippi and led the Baltimore Ravens to victory in Super Bowl XLVII.

After an eight-year NFL career, Oher now focuses on his foundation, which is based in Nashville. His inspiring story is detailed in the New York Times best-selling books “I Beat The Odds: From Homelessness To The Blind Side and Beyond” and “When Our Back’s Against the Wall: Fame, Football, and Lessons Learned through a Lifetime of Adversity.”

For more information about Brooks, visit [arthurbrooks.com](http://arthurbrooks.com).

For more information about the Oher Foundation, visit [oherfoundation.org](http://oherfoundation.org).

## Fall classes begin Aug. 26; Welcome Weekend starts Aug. 22

Classes for the 2024-25 school year begin Monday, Aug. 26, and before the first bell rings, students will experience the annual Welcome Weekend.

Welcome Weekend begins with Move-In Day on Thursday, Aug. 22. Housing and First-Year Experience check-ins begin at 8 a.m. at the residence halls.

At 6 p.m., the Welcome Home Picnic gets underway on the Ellington Hall and Conner Community residence facility lawns. The

picnic will feature campus recreation games, free UTM swag, a photo booth, a scavenger hunt and several door prizes.

Some of the welcome-back events include:  
**Friday, Aug. 23**

- 10 a.m.: Convocation, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- 7 p.m.: Housing block party, Conner Community lawn

**Saturday, Aug. 24**

- 9 a.m.: Campus tours for first-year

students.

- 7 p.m.: Dale K: Comedy Hypnotist, Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.

**Sunday, Aug. 25**

- 2 p.m.: Getting Involved, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- 3:30 p.m.: Kick Off to Classes, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- 6 p.m.: Glow Night, Boling University Center, second floor.



# Town & Gown Association meets July 30



The UT Martin and City of Martin Town and Gown Association met July 30 for a lunch meeting at the Martin Event Center in the Martin Public Library. Members heard city updates from Mayor Randy Brundige, university updates from Chancellor Yancy Freeman and a UT Martin Strategic Plan overview from Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs. Cavalier talked about the strategic planning process and timetable that will lead to the plan’s unveiling during the UT Board of Trustees meeting in February 2025 in Martin. Pictured following the meeting are (l-r) Brundige, Freeman and Cavalier. The association fosters community and university pride and connects city and university services, events and programs and is managed by the UTM Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

## Deadline to become a UT Promise Mentor is Aug. 15

Through the expansion of University of Tennessee’s UT Promise scholarship program, two-thirds of students in the state of Tennessee are eligible for free tuition and mandatory



should sign up by Aug. 15 to help shape the lives of Tennessee students.

Information about UT Promise Mentors can be found by visiting [tennessee.edu/ut-promise](https://tennessee.edu/ut-promise), clicking on “UT Promise Mentors” and clicking on “Become a Mentor” on the drop-down menu.

“I’ve been with UT Promise for four years, since the program began in 2020,” said Ben Guyer, a member of the Royal Historical Society. “Mentorship has allowed me to get to

**Continued on PAGE 8**

### Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

**Sunday, Aug. 18**

- Women’s soccer vs. Southern Illinois, 5 p.m.

**Thursday, Aug. 29**

- Women’s soccer vs. Indiana State, 7 p.m.

Full athletics schedules can be found at [utmsports.com](https://utmsports.com).



fees at the UT campus of their choice: Knoxville, Martin, Chattanooga, Southern (Pulaski) or Health Science Center (Memphis).

As part of the scholarship, students are matched with a mentor who provides crucial support and guidance, helping them thrive within the University of Tennessee System, but there is a vital need for

volunteer mentors.

To support the growing number of students, students need more mentors than ever. The time commitment is minimal – just two to three hours per semester – but the impact is immeasurable.

UT Promise mentors come from all backgrounds. Anyone who meets the requirements can make a difference. Volunteers

### SENATE from PAGE 1

well as the faculty representative on the UT Board of Trustees Education, Research, and Service Committee.

Dr. Ester Sellars, professor of nursing, will serve as Faculty Senate secretary for the 2024-25 academic year, replacing Dr.

Tracy Rutledge, professor in the mass media and strategic communication department.

With Walker assuming the presidency, the Faculty Senate will solicit president-elect nominations at the Aug. 20 senate retreat and hold elections

at the first full senate meeting of the fall on Sept. 24.

Additional senate committee chairperson and membership information and a meeting calendar are available through the UTM Faculty Senate Onespace.



Incoming student leadership for the Student Section of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association for the 2024-25 school year as announced at the annual meeting July 28-29 in New Orleans are (L-R) President Owen Gibson of Texas A&M University, Vice President Chayil Watkins of UT Martin, Laurie Kibush of Angelo State University and Social Media Director Jordyn Litton of UT Martin. This marks the first time in recent memory that a UT Martin student was named to a leadership position in the organization.

## UTM team takes fifth in Agribusiness Academic Bowl

Six UTM undergraduate students in agricultural business competed in the Academic Bowl at the annual meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association on July 28-29 in New Orleans, beating several teams from highly competitive universities.

One of the UTM teams – senior Victoria Petersen, senior Katie Witbeck and sophomore Chayil Watkins – came in fifth place overall, the university’s best placement

in this international competition.

The team is advised by agribusiness faculty, and Dr. Anthony Delmond and Dr. Joey Mehlhorn accompanied them on the trip.

Delmond developed a course in the spring 2024 semester to train students for the quiz bowl piece of the academic competition, and all six of the competitors participated in that course and earned their positions on the team.

In addition to this success, two students ran for and won positions on the board of the Undergraduate Student Section for the association. Watkins will be the incoming vice president and junior Jordyn Litton will be the incoming social media director.

This is also the first time that UTM students have served in leadership roles within the association. Delmond joined as the incoming advisor for the section, a four-year term.

### You Tell Me

- **Question** – Why is the carillon that chimes throughout the quadrangle set three to five minutes earlier than the actual time?
- **Answer** – The electronic carillon time had drifted, so the Department of Public Safety recently reset it to the correct time. The carillon speaker sits atop the Andy Holt Humanities Building and plays music twice a day – noon and 5 p.m. The alma mater plays at noon, and the 5 p.m. selection is “Forever UTM.” Both pieces were composed by the late Dr. Dwight Gatwood, professor emeritus of music who died July 17, 2023. The carillon also tolls year-round on the quarter-hour, half hour and hour, and can be used as a mass audible alert system if needed. The Department of Public Safety houses the programming technology that makes the carillon possible. The carillon was purchased with money from the Campus Fund, and the bells rang for the first time Aug. 30, 2001, ending UT Martin’s yearlong Centennial Celebration. The carillon was moved to its current location several years ago when Fine Arts Building renovations began.

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





UT Martin students are shown with Dr. Jessi Gold (center left), the first chief wellness officer for the University of Tennessee System, and Dr. Bernie Savarese (center right), the UT System vice president for academic affairs, research and student success. Gold and Savarese visited the UT Martin campus on Aug. 6.

## UT System officers Gold, Savarese visit UTM campus

Dr. Jessi Gold, the first chief wellness officer for the UT System, and Dr. Bernie Savarese, UT System vice president for academic affairs, research and student success, are visiting UT campuses to gain a better understanding of the wellness culture on each campus and the services provided to students.

Gold, also associate professor of psychiatry

at the UT Health Science Center, and Savarese visited UT Martin on Aug. 6 and met with Chancellor Yancy Freeman; Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs; Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, and members of the student affairs staff, including Student Health and Counseling Center staff members.

“Working with Dr. Gold will provide opportunities to share resources across the UT system,” Lewter said. “Her expertise will be invaluable as we provide the best possible wellness services to UTM students.”

Gold and Savarese (above center) are pictured with UT Martin students whom they met with during the visit.

### MENTOR from PAGE 6

know my mentees in a much more meaningful way than is generally facilitated through either advising or teaching.

“And, they have gotten to know me, too. For example, this last academic year, my mentee consistently asked me how my daughter was doing. I think I’m right in saying that a mentor is not an ‘authority figure’

like a teacher. Wearing the mentor hat has been a welcome development.”

Others who are new to the program have also said they enjoyed being a part of it.

“I volunteered for the first time last year,” said Kristina Pitz, a health sciences pre-professional coordinator at UT Martin. “I had two students that I mentored. One was a pre-

med/biology student and the other was a nursing student. I met with each of my students three times during the semester. My pre-med/biology student was very sweet, but super-quiet.

“My nursing student and I, however, absolutely hit it off. She would come to my office for snacks and told me that she liked talking to me because she felt like she could tell me

things without being judged. I helped her find information about service opportunities and reminded her about activities around campus.”

Applications to become a UT Promise Mentor will be taken through Thursday, Aug. 15.

More information about becoming a UT Promise Mentor, contact UT Promise at [utpromise@tennessee.edu](mailto:utpromise@tennessee.edu).

## addenda

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

Randy Boyd – President, University of Tennessee System • Dr. Yancy Freeman Sr. – UTM Chancellor • David Snow – Addenda Editor

UT Martin is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA employer. E05-0415-00-001-25