

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Aug. 26, 2024

Another school year gets underway



Chancellor Yancy Freeman (above center) is shown speaking to first-year students at the Kickoff to Classes event held Aug. 25 at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Classes for the fall 2024 semester began Aug. 26. First-year students also took part in the annual walk to the Convocation (below) held Aug. 23 in the Tom Elam Center, where the sidewalks were lined by the Aviators Marching Band and students, faculty and staff.



YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

UT Martin REED Center Director **Landy Gill Fuqua** has been selected as a member of the 2025 UT System Administration Leadership Institute.

The UT System Administration Leadership Institute is designed for the university's academic and administrative leaders, and participation is limited to 40

participants per institute.

Similar to the academic rigor that produces top-notch researchers at the university, the institute provides a research-based foundation for UT administrators to be leadership experts.

Participants practice leadership skills in a hands-on, experiential learning setting.

Formed in 1981, the institute

has graduated more than 1,000 participants and has a lengthy list of accomplished alumni from around the state.

Administrative leaders of each UT campus and institute nominate UT's most promising employees for the institute, which is held every other year.

Learn more at the institute [here](#).



Fuqua



Sargolzaei

Dr. Saman Sargolzaei, associate professor of engineering, had an article accepted for presentation at the IEEE-EMBS International Conference on Body Sensor Networks: NextGen Health: Sensor Innovation, AI, and Social Responsibility (IEEE BSN 2024).

The conference will be held Oct. 15-17 in Chicago.

The article is titled "Brain Functional Connectivity

Network Adjustments After Lateral Fluid Percussion Injury in Immature Rats: A Longitudinal Study."

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) in children poses distinct challenges because of the rapid and intricate development of the brain.

To understand how TBI affects brain function and structure in pediatric populations, advanced modeling techniques such as brain network modeling are

essential.

This study investigates changes in functional connectivity networks following mild to moderate lateral fluid percussion injury in immature rats, utilizing functional magnetic resonance imaging.

The peer-reviewed article is a product of interdisciplinary research at UT Martin in collaboration with University of California Los Angeles Department of Neurosurgery.

Dr. Cassie Burks, assistant professor of nursing, attended the Mississippi Association of Nurse Practitioners' 10th annual conference July 15-17 in Gulf Shores, Alabama, with funding provided by the UTM Faculty Development Grant.

Dr. Burks also authored "Coping with Burnout through Conference Attendance," submitted to the Tennessee Nurse's Association.



Burks

Two events offered at Fine Arts Gallery

The Department of Visual and Theatre Arts offers two events this week that are open to the public.

• **Friday, Aug. 30, 5-7 p.m., Fine Arts Gallery.** The Fine Arts Gallery will host a closing reception for its first visiting artist exhibition, Reckon.

Curated by Clay Palmer, this exhibition includes artists from across the region and addresses themes regarding the passage of time, growth and decay, and the nature of memory and loss.

Artists included in the exhibition are Kelly Cook, Beth Edwards, Eliza Frensley, Katherine Frensley, Sarah Haig, John Roberts, Kate

Roberts, Jason Stout, Olivia Tawzer and Paige Ward-Moore. Refreshments will be provided.

• **Sunday, Sept. 1, 2-4 p.m., Fine Arts Gallery.** The Department of Visual and Theatre Arts will partner with the Tennessee Soybean Festival to host an opening reception for the 10th annual Guitar as Art! exhibition in the Fine Arts Gallery.

This exhibition will showcase guitars transformed into stunning works of art by local artists using various techniques.

Refreshments and live music will be provided at the event, and awards will be presented at 3 p.m.

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

A visit to the Baptist Collegiate Ministry



Chancellor Yancy Freeman and first lady Rafielle Boone Freeman attended BCM Survival '24 on Aug. 18, where Dr. Freeman spoke to the students and parents. SURVIVAL is sponsored by the BCM every August before the semester begins.

Students visit Germany through Travel Study



Twelve UT Martin students of German traveled to Braunschweig – home to UTM’s official German partner institution, the Technische Universität – from May 6 to 17. During their stay, the students visited the towns of Goslar, Wolfenbüttel and Wernigerode, took an active role in a course on American culture taught by Prof. Rüdiger Heinze, received a guided tour of the campus and had a thorough introduction to life of a foreign exchange student at TU-B. They also attended an authentic medieval festival in Hardenberg as well as a professional soccer match held at Braunschweig Stadium. The stay in Germany proved to be as educational as it was fascinating. This annual, for-credit Travel Study (GERM 370) requires participants to have completed one semester of Beginning German (GERM 111) and is led by Dr. Chuck Hammond, professor of German, and Dr. Kyoko Hammond, lecturer in Japanese. UT Martin students are shown in front of the Katzenbalgen (“Cat Tussle”) statue in the Braunschweig city center.

Upcoming Campus Events

Monday, Aug. 26

- First day of classes for fall 2024

Tuesday, Aug. 27

- Campus involvement fair, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Boling University Center

Wednesday, Aug. 28

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

University Center

Thursday, Aug. 29

- Part-time job fair, 1-3 p.m., Duncan Ballroom, Boling University Center
- Skyhawk-palooza, Pacer Pond; food trucks open at 4 p.m., event opens at 5 p.m.

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

HAVE YOU SCENE?

[Click here to see the new issue!](#)



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

Skyhawk Awards for August announced

The winners of the Skyhawk Awards for the month of August have been announced.

Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science, won the Skyhawk Innovation Award, earning a \$250 cash prize.

Dan Comer, academic support specialist in the Department of Engineering, and **Elizabeth Lackey**, assistant to the dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs, were named the Skyhawk Spirit Award winners, each earning a \$50 cash prize.

Roberts was praised by the

person who nominated him for his work with the university's veterinary science program.

"(He was hired to) develop a veterinary science program, and today, his programs are two of the largest on the UTM campus," his letter of nomination stated. "The cornerstone of both the veterinary science and the veterinary technology programs is innovation, and Jason has built this innovation from the ground up since 2009.

"One of the most impressive aspects of his dedication to innovation is keeping that focus on student needs. Jason stays up to date with developments in the veterinarian industry as a trained veterinarian himself as well as by building a strong faculty team of veterinarians. His team-building skills have created a group of faculty members who offer students a diverse learning environment as well as a group that stays at the forefront of technological innovations in the field."

Comer was nominated to the award because of his work in the Department of Engineering.

"He is so dedicated to the students that he took time away from his family to drive the trailer, with the BAJA car and tools, to California and back for the SAE Baja competition in April," his letter of nomination stated. "Dan's dedication to the students and both departments is unparalleled."

Lackey was praised for her work in the College of Business and Global Affairs.

"Her greatest contribution to the college, though, is her ability to put others' visions to execution," her letter of nomination stated. "She frequently executes the dean's vision for celebrating his faculty and staff through organizing meetings, lunches and banquets.

"In a world where people are quick to forget to recognize other's achievements, Elizabeth makes sure every student, faculty member, and staff receives the recognition they deserve for their achievements."

The deadline for turning in nominations for the September Skyhawk Spirit award is Friday, Sept. 6.

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

Criteria for the awards are:

- Performance substantially beyond expectation on a specific assignment or task
- Contributions that have made 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



Roberts



Comer



Lackey

to skyhawkspiritaward@utm.edu.

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

Thursday, Aug. 29

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

Friday, Sept. 6

- Women's volleyball vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff, 11:30 a.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse (Skyhawk Invitational)
- Women's volleyball vs. North Alabama, 6:30 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse (Skyhawk Invitational)

Saturday, Sept. 7

- Women's volleyball vs. Missouri State, 2 p.m. (Skyhawk Invitational)

Sunday, Sept. 8

- Women's soccer vs. Northern Iowa, 1 p.m.
- Full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com.
- Watch "Skyhawk Sports Talk" each week, archived at utmsports.com! New episodes are posted each Monday.



Dr. Clinton Smith, professor of special education and chair of the Department of Educational Studies, was elected to serve as the higher education representative on the National Education Association's (NEA) Board of Directors by the delegates of the NEA Representative Assembly for a three-year term.



Smith

Submit a YoUTM or question to addenda@utm.edu!

Stout speaks at Kiwanis about Frazier's Book Bus



Jason Stout (third from left) and Legon Roberson (fourth from left) presented a program about Frazier's Book Bus for the July 24 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Martin. Stout, professor of art, described the efforts of about 20 students in the League of Striving Artists as they worked on art to be considered for Frazier's Book Bus, the new mobile library that will serve Weakley, Carroll and Henry counties in West Tennessee. Roberson, director of grants management and special projects at United Way of West Tennessee, described how the bus was made possible through the collaboration and support of numerous partners. Others pictured are (L-R) Kiwanian Jennifer Medford, who will soon be working with United Way; Suzanne Pelren, children's library assistant at Martin Public Library (MPL); Laura Taylor, Kiwanis president-elect; Jenny Claiborne, MPL youth and children's librarian; and Katie Parr, Kiwanian and director of Martin Public Library. United Way of West Tennessee is a nonprofit organization based in Jackson that advocates for equity through uniting agencies in ways that improve each person's access to health, education and financial stability.

Brooks, Oher to visit UT Martin campus Aug. 28

UT Martin will welcome two highly noted speakers to campus on Wednesday, Aug. 28, with a free public session scheduled for the afternoon.

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, will make their first appearance at UT Martin.

Chancellor Yancy Freeman will moderate a question-and-answer session for Brooks at the 2:30 p.m. session in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

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

The two speakers 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, 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 "How to Build a Life" column.

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

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 became a two-time all-American at the University of Mississippi and helped lead the Baltimore Ravens to victory in Super Bowl XLVII.

Skyhawk football season tickets are on sale

The UT Martin football program is in the midst of an unprecedented run. The Skyhawks have won at least a share of three straight conference championships for the first time in school history, going 25-10 overall with a 15-2 mark in league play over that stretch.

The 2024 home schedule kicks off on Saturday, Sept. 14, against North Alabama at Hardy M. Graham Stadium, with a total of six home games on the schedule this year.

All tickets are online this year with faculty and staff discounted ticket pricing still available through the online site. All faculty



and staff will be required to enter their six digit personnel number to receive the faculty and staff discount.

The link to tickets online is www.utmsports.com/tickets.

When previous season ticket holders

have purchased their season tickets online, the ticket office will be able to assign those ticket holders to their previous seating.

When new season ticket purchasers buy their season tickets online, they will be contacted to get the best available seating. The tickets will then be emailed to the email address they provide.

Take advantage of these discounted prices for faculty and staff and come out and support the Skyhawks.

Here is a look at this year's football schedule, with home games shown in **boldface**, the opponents given in ALL CAPITALS and Big South-OVC games indicated with an asterisk:

Date	Time	Opponent
Aug. 31	6 p.m.	at Kansas State
Sept. 7	6 p.m.	*at Southeast Missouri
Sept. 14	6 p.m.	NORTH ALABAMA
Sept. 21	6 p.m.	MISSOURI STATE
Sept. 28	5 p.m.	at Kennesaw State
Oct. 5	2 p.m.	* GARDNER-WEBB
Oct. 12	3 p.m.	*at Western Illinois
Oct. 26	2 p.m.	* EASTERN ILLINOIS
Nov. 2	5 p.m.	*at Tennessee State
Nov. 9	1 p.m.	*at Charleston So.
Nov. 16	2 p.m.	* TENNESSEE TECH
Nov. 23	2 p.m.	* LINDENWOOD

This year's Homecoming game will be the Oct. 5 contest against Gardner-Webb.

Other designated games will be the Hall of Fame game on Sept. 14, the Community Night game on Sept. 21, the Family Weekend game on Oct. 26, the Military Appreciation game on Nov. 16 and the Senior Day and Ag Day game on Nov. 23.



The UT Martin Skyhawks have won at least a share of the last three conference titles. Help cheer them on to a fourth straight title by purchasing a season ticket!

You Tell Me

• **Question** – During the course of a year, what are the average monthly utility costs for the main campus? Does the Power Generation Facility help reduce utility costs?

• **Answer** – Average monthly utility costs for the university are approximately \$325,000, which includes gas, electricity, water and sewer. The Power Generation Facility provides the campus with an electrical source during outages or when the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) requires power. The facility does not help reduce campus utility costs and is not a source for daily usage.

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

addenda

Published weekly during the academic year and biweekly during the summer by UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238
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 UT Martin is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA employer. E05-0415-00-001-25