

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Sept. 23, 2024



The 2024 Alumni Award winners will be (L-R) Andy Collins, Outstanding Alumni Award; Laura McFall Bond, Outstanding Young Alumni Award; and Dr. Walter "Wally" Hoffmann, University Service Award.

2024 UTM Alumni Award winners announced

Three UT Martin alumni will receive Alumni Awards on Oct. 5 during homecoming festivities.

Andy Collins, a 2001 graduate, will receive the Outstanding Alumni Award.

Collins is the president and chief operating officer at Security Bank & Trust Company headquartered in Paris. He is married to UTM alumna Susanne Collins, who is also a 2001 graduate, and father to current UTM junior Cameron Collins, who is studying construction management, and to Anne Claire Collins, who plans to attend UTM in fall 2025 to study education.

Originally from Martin, the family now lives in Paris.

Collins serves on the Chancellor's Roundtable, served as the past president of the UT Martin Alumni Council and as the past president of the Skyhawk Club.

Laura McFall Bond, a 2012 graduate, will receive the Outstanding Young Alumni Award. She holds a bachelor's degree

in communications and furthered her education at the University of Memphis, earning a master's degree in higher education.

Bond resides in Greenville, North Carolina, with her husband, Kyle (2010) and their son, Wilks. She plays a pivotal role in managing partnerships at Relias, a leading health-care e-learning company based in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Bond's commitment to her alma mater is evident through her ongoing service on the UTM Alumni Council. She has also contributed her time and expertise to the Student Alumni Council, the UTM Young Alumni Council and the UTM Memphis Alumni Board.

Recently, Laura and Kyle furthered their dedication to education by endowing a scholarship designed to support undergraduate students.

Dr. Walter "Wally" Hoffmann, a 1965 graduate, will receive the University Service

Award.

Hoffmann was raised on a farm in Southern Illinois and attended UT Martin Branch on a basketball scholarship, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in math and science education.

He was employed by the UTMB chemistry department to teach general chemistry laboratories for a year, then received a Ph.D. in biochemistry at Southern Illinois University in 1971.

Hoffmann continued his academic studies at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, receiving the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1975. He served on the faculty at UICVM for 35 years in the area of veterinary clinical pathology with teaching, research and clinical diagnostic service involvement. He served as the director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory the final four years for his career.

After retiring, Hoffmann moved with his

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Will Bird, UTM associate professor of agricultural education, teamed with Dr. Steven Chumbley, professor of agricultural science at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and Dr. Trent Wells, assistant professor of agricultural education at Murray State University, to co-author an article in the September/October 2024 issue of The Agricultural Education Magazine.

The article, “Learning by Doing: Engaging in Project-Focused Professional Development,” was about



Bird

providing professional development for agriculture teachers similar to UT Martin’s trailer fabrication workshop held June 27-28.

Dr. Adnan Rasool, associate professor of political science, has been named the inaugural director of the UTM Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL).

Having a CTL centralizes existing faculty development resources to maximize impact and invest in additional programming and personnel as well as creating, tracking and assessing the training and professional development for the implementation of high-impact practices, specifically in first-year courses targeted via institutional research.

The CTL reports directly to



Rasool

the Office of the Provost and is a partnership between the Office of Academic Affairs and the existing Instructional Technology Center.

McNeal, Hatch earn Skyhawk Spirit Awards

This month’s Skyhawk Spirit Award winners were **Marye McNeal**, client services technician in the Office of Information Technology, and **Dr. Laura Hatch**, assistant professor of accounting.

McNeal was awarded the Skyhawk Spirit Award and a \$50 prize for her exceptional efforts in assisting students with technology and account issues. Her proactive problem solving and dedication to making the process seamless for students significantly enhanced their experience with IT Services.

Hatch received the Skyhawk Innovation Award and a \$250 prize for her groundbreaking work in creating a forensic accounting elective that has quickly become a student favorite. Her ability to make learning exciting and accessible, along with her dedication to student success, sets a new standard for innovative teaching in the College of Business and Global Affairs.

Skyhawk Spirit Awards seek to recognize employee contributions that exceed expectations for performance.



McNeal

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.

All regular full- and part-time faculty and staff up to the level



Hatch

of director are eligible to receive Spirit Awards. Independent contractors, temporary employees, volunteers and executive-level staff who report directly to the chancellor and serve as a member of the chancellor’s cabinet are not eligible for the Skyhawk Spirit Award.

Cash prizes that come with the award are \$50 or \$250, based on the level and impact

of the employee contribution. Up to four \$50 awards may be earned per month, while one \$250 award may be given per month.

Employees may be nominated by any employee for the \$50 Spirit Award, but nominations for the \$250 Innovation Spirit Award must be initiated by employees with the job title of supervisor, manager or director and should only be given for significant employee contributions. The \$50 award may also reward a singular exceptional act of customer service.

Nominations for the October Skyhawk Spirit Awards are due by Oct. 4. Nominations should be sent to skyhawkspiritaward@utm.edu. Nominations for each month are due by the first Friday of that month.

Promote a faculty or staff member by sending a YoUTM to addenda@utm.edu.

'Get on board': Homecoming schedule released

UT Martin will host its 2024 homecoming festivities Sept. 28-Oct. 6 on the main campus.

Among this year's events, the annual Quad City tent festival will begin at 10:30 a.m., Oct. 5, followed by the 2 p.m. homecoming football game against Big South-Ohio Valley Conference rival Gardner-Webb University at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

UT Martin is bringing out the board games with a theme of "Get on Board with Homecoming" for the event-filled week.

Traditional homecoming events throughout the week include the rope pull held at 4 p.m. throughout the week with championships beginning at 3 p.m., Oct. 4, behind the Student Recreation Center; lip sync held at 7 p.m., Oct. 1, at Festival Park in downtown Martin; pyramid and pep rally held at 7 p.m., Oct. 4, at the Elam Center; and the National Pan-Hellenic Council step show at 7 p.m., Oct. 5, at the Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

In addition to the step show, the Black Alumni Council is sponsoring several events during homecoming week, including the BAC Game Night at 7 p.m., Oct. 4, at the Dunagan Alumni Center; the BAC Alumni Mixer at 9 p.m., Oct. 4, at the Dunagan Alumni Center; and the BAC Tailgate during the homecoming game on Oct. 5.

Saturday, Oct. 5, is the primary day



Skyhawk cheerleaders take part in last year's Quad Walk with the football team and the Aviators Marching Band prior to the game. A longstanding tradition, the Quad Walk will take place at 11 a.m. Oct. 5.

for homecoming activities and includes the Chancellor's Brunch and Alumni Awards Program (invitation only) prior to the opening of Quad City at 10:30 a.m. The Skyhawk football team will take its traditional "Hawk Walk" through the quad at 11 a.m., and the football game begins at 2 p.m.

Homecoming week will end with brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Oct. 6, in the Skyhawk Dining Hall.

More about the week is available at alumni.utm.edu/homecoming-24, where homecoming T-shirts can be reserved and a complete list of events is posted. Adult T-shirts range from \$20 to \$22 and youth T-shirts are \$15.

For more information about UT Martin homecoming activities, contact Dr. Jackie Johnson, associate vice chancellor for Alumni Relations, at 731-881-7610 or jjohn253@utm.edu

Soto to speak at Hispanic Heritage Month event

Wellness journalist Tianna Faye Soto will be the keynote speaker at the UT Martin Latin Hispanic Student Association's Hispanic Heritage Month event.

The event will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, at the Paul Meek Library on the main campus of UT Martin.

The event is open to the public and admission is free. Light refreshments will be served.

Soto is a keynote speaker and journalist based in New York City. With expertise in mental health and wellness, she is dedicated to empowering college students to face their journey with clarity and confidence.

Soto's work has been

featured by the United Nations Foundation, Cosmopolitan magazine and the news platform Elite Daily. She is the associate health and wellness editor at Women's Health magazine.

Through her work, Soto shares practical guidance for mental health and wellness and encourages audiences to honor and embrace their personal stories.

Soto holds a Master of Arts degree in clinical and counseling psychology from Columbia University and Bachelor of Arts degrees in psychology, Spanish language and Spanish literature from North Carolina State University.



Soto

She is also a certified yoga and meditation instructor and wellness consultant who works with clients to help them achieve their personal and professional goals.

As a Puerto Rican, Jamaican-

Chinese woman, Soto encourages students to celebrate and embrace their backgrounds and be proud of their unique stories.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is held from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. The month begins with a celebration of national independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua (Sept. 15) as well as for Mexico (Sept. 16) and Chile (Sept. 18). It became a monthlong celebration in 1988.

The event is sponsored by the UTM Latin Hispanic Student Association and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Civil rights icon Ruby Bridges to speak here Oct. 4

Civil rights icon, activist and New York Times best-selling author Ruby Bridges will speak Oct. 4 at UT Martin.

Bridges will speak at noon in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Her appearance is part of the 2024 Dr. Henry H. Parker Speaker Series, which honors the longtime UT Martin philosophy faculty member.

The presentation is free and open to the public. Registration is required and can be completed on the event's website [here](#).

Bridges was the first Black student to integrate an all-white elementary school in Louisiana. Her life is summarized on the [National Women's History Museum website](#) which notes "she was a class of one" that year because only one teacher would accept her as a student, but she never missed school.

A famous 1964 Norman Rockwell painting titled "The Problem We Live With" captured the image of Bridges' first



Bridges

day at school and symbolized a chapter in the American school desegregation story.

Bridges will tell her story during a moderated conversation from a stage on Pat Head Summitt Court.

Persons attending the event will go through security measures before entering the Elam Center. Wanding procedures will be conducted by UT Martin Skyhawk ROTC Battalion cadets accompanied by officers from the university's Department of Public Safety.

No bags, purses or backpacks are allowed. The use of any recording devices during the event, including but not limited to cell phones, video cameras or digital recorders is not permitted during the presentation.

Bridges' appearance is part of the university's annual homecoming week celebration Sept. 30-Oct. 6.

Additional information about UT Martin Homecoming can be found at alumni.utm.edu/homecoming-24.

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

Sunday, Sept. 29

- *Women's soccer vs. Tennessee Tech, 2 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field

Saturday, Oct. 5

- *Football vs. Gardner-Webb, 2 p.m., Hardy M. Graham Stadium (Homecoming)

Sunday, Oct. 6

- *Women's soccer vs. Morehead State, 2 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field
- * - conference competition
- 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.



Constitution Day program held



UTM Director of Public Safety Michael O'Neill (left) speaks to the audience at the Student Government Association's Constitution Day Speaker Program held Sept. 17 in the Boling University Center. O'Neill and Weakley County Mayor Dale Hutcherson were the guest speakers at the program. O'Neill and Hutcherson spoke on "Constitutional Rights and Law Enforcement Interactions" from the perspectives of law enforcement and a criminal defense attorney.

UTM students advance to Miss Tennessee Volunteer

Kayla Mick and Maggie McClendon, both UT Martin students, claimed the Miss UT Martin and Miss Weakley County Volunteer titles, respectively, during the 66th Miss University of Tennessee at Martin Pageant, Sept. 15, in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

The combined pageant also crowns the Miss Weakley County Volunteer winner. The event is organized by the university's Division of Student Affairs.

Mick is a sophomore fine and performing arts major from Baxter and McClendon is a senior engineering major from Clarksville. Both will compete in the statewide Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant next summer at the Carl Perkins Civic Center in Jackson.

The winner of the Miss Tennessee Volunteer crown serves as the governor's spokesperson for character education and receives \$10,000 in scholarship money. Each contestant who competes at the Miss Tennessee Volunteer pageant in July 2025 will receive at least \$1,000 in scholarship money.

Sloan Wiggs of Tullahoma earned first runner-up honors for Miss UT Martin, while Harlei McClintock of Jackson was named second runner-up.

Earning first runner-up for Miss Weakley County Volunteer was Molly Oswalt of Burlison. Chloe Amick of McKenzie earned second runner-up honors and was named the talent competition winner. Payton



Kayla Mick (left), a sophomore fine and performing arts student from Baxter, was crowned Miss UTM Sept. 15 at the Miss UTM and Miss Weakley County Volunteer pageants. Maggie McClendon, a senior engineering major from Clarksville, was crowned Miss Weakley County Volunteer at the pageant. Both UTM students will advance to the Miss Tennessee Volunteer Pageant in July.

Johnson of Cullman, Alabama, received the People's Choice Award.

Former titleholders Miss UT Martin Morgan Martin and Miss Tennessee Soybean Festival Katie Facello emceed the pageant. Also participating in the pageant program were Maleia Bigham, 2024 Miss UT Martin; Hannah McKay, the reigning Miss Tennessee Volunteer; and Kristin Henning, the reigning Miss Tennessee Teen

Volunteer. Henning is from Jackson and is a UT Martin student.

Each contestant competed in private interview, fitness and wellness, talent and evening wear. In addition to the Miss UT Martin title, Mick earned Miss Congeniality and won the interview, fitness and evening gown competitions.

"I feel so and totally blessed," Mick said

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Upcoming Campus Events

Sept. 23-28

- Student Appreciation Week

Tuesday, Sept. 24

- Hawk Break, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Dunagan Alumni Center
- STEM/health care career fair, noon-4 p.m., Duncan Ballroom, Boling University Center.

- "Citing Sources with Zotero," 4 p.m., 152 Paul Meek Library.

Wednesday, Sept. 25

- All majors career fair, noon-4 p.m., Duncan Ballroom, Boling University Center.

Thursday, Sept. 26

- Open Phone Banned Book

Trivia, 6-7 p.m., Paul Meek Library (Banned Book Week is Sept. 22-28.)

Friday, Sept. 27

- Mum Madness, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Help to prepare the campus for Homecoming! People are asked to dedicate an hour or more to pitch in. Confirm participation by emailing cvirgin@utm.edu.

Sept. 28-Oct. 6

- Homecoming Week! See the Addenda article with the event schedule.

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

2-DAY CAREER

EXPO

STEM & HEALTHCARE CAREER FAIR

Tuesday, September 24 | 12 PM - 4 PM
Boling University Center Ballroom

ALL MAJORS CAREER FAIR

Wednesday, September 25 | 12 PM - 4 PM
Boling University Center Ballroom

2024

UTM Faculty Women's Club hosts reception



The Faculty Women's Club hosted a welcome reception for all new women faculty and staff and the wives of faculty and staff. The event offered an opportunity to meet new colleagues. The reception was held Sept. 21 in the Dunagan Alumni Center. Those who attended the reception received two complimentary tickets to the UT Martin-Missouri State football game that followed the reception.

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following the pageant. "All glory to God - nothing I did - and I have to use this title to really showcase our great university on the Miss Tennessee (Volunteer) stage and shine a really bright light." She now begins preparation for Miss Tennessee Volunteer in all pageant competition categories, including showcasing her dance talent in Jackson.

Mick supports two platforms: "Leashes Leading Love," which brings awareness to auditory

processing disorder and animal care systems, and "The Magic of Movement and Healthy Living" that promotes how dance and education complement each other in a child's educational experience.

McClendon is also a longtime pageant participant, and this is her first time to win a pageant that qualifies her to compete for the Miss Tennessee Volunteer crown.

"I'm so excited to be able to represent Weakley County," she said. "I'm a senior this year, so

this is the last year I'm going to be here and it's such an honor." Ahead of Miss Tennessee Volunteer next year, McClendon will focus on community service involvement, the different pageant competition categories, and like her fellow Miss UT Martin crown holder, refine her dance talent for the next level of competition.

McClendon's platform brings awareness to suicide among military veterans, a subject that hits close to home. "I'm from the Fort Campbell area, and my

dad is a veteran as well as nearly my entire family (associated with the military), so I love to be able to give back to my hometown," she said.

Both earned scholarship money for winning their respective titles and will represent the university and Weakley County in different activities during the coming year.

For information about the combined pageant, email missutmweakleyco@yahoo.com.

You Tell Me

• **Question** - At some universities, the on-campus health clinics are available to faculty and staff members, as well as students. Has UTM ever considered expanding the services to include employees? If this has never been considered, could it be something that is looked at in the future?

• **Answer** - Student Health and Counseling Services are currently funded through the student health fee and, therefore, it only serves students. At other universities, when employees are provided this service, most of the time, insurance is billed or a fee collected like the local urgent care clinic. If this were to happen at UT Martin in the future, an expansion of the clinical staff, budget and facility would be required.

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

UTM Advisory Board meets Sept. 20



Chancellor Yancy Freeman (above photo) speaks during the UTM Advisory Board meeting held Sept. 20 at the Boling University Center as Board Chair Art Sparks Jr. listens. At right, Petra McPhearson, the senior vice chancellor for finance and administration, addresses the board during the meeting. Addenda will feature a story about the advisory board meeting in its Sept. 30 issue.



AWARDS from PAGE 1

wife near Franklin.

Hoffmann’s service to UT Martin includes serving as the president of the UTM Alumni Association, as a member of the Chancellor’s Roundtable and

on the UT President’s Council.

The alumni awards will be presented during the annual invitation-only Chancellor’s Brunch and Alumni Awards Program at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5.

These award winners will be recognized after the first quarter of the of the homecoming football game against Gardner-Webb University. The game begins at 2 p.m. in Hardy M. Graham Stadium, and tickets

are available in advance through the Skyhawk Ticket Office and at the gate on game day.

More information about UT Martin’s 2024 Homecoming Week can be found at alumni.utm.edu/homecoming.

addenda

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