

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Sept. 30, 2024

'Get on Board' with Homecoming 2024



Banners created by UT Martin organizations following the homecoming theme of "Get on Board" (board games) can be seen in the Paul Meek Library this week. The artworks will be voted on by the public through the [UTM Alumni Facebook page](#) and the [Student Alumni Council Instagram page](#) throughout the week. Shown are three of the 19 entries, including (L-R) the Pi Kappa Alpha entry, the Kappa Alpha entry and the Sigma Alpha Epsilon entry. The banner with the most "likes" in each division will get a point toward that organization's homecoming score. Voting began at 5 p.m. Sept. 30 and will run through noon Oct. 3. They will be on display in the library through Oct. 5, and the winner will be announced at Quad City.

UT Martin rises in the collegiate rankings

UT Martin rose seven spots from last year in the Regional Universities-South category in the 2025 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings.

The university went from 27th last year to a tie for 20th place in the new rankings that included 135 regional southern universities.

Universities are ranked by U.S. News based on their performance across a set of widely accepted indicators of excellence.

In other U.S. News rankings in the Regional Universities-South category, UT Martin was tied for eighth in Top Public Schools and seventh in the Best Colleges for Veterans.

The university finished alone in 24th place in the Best Value Schools category.

"Rankings are one way to measure the quality of higher education institutions, and I'm pleased that UT Martin has improved

in several categories in the latest U.S. News rankings," said **Dr. Yancy Freeman**, university chancellor. "Our successful fall enrollment shows that more people are looking to UT Martin to deliver the best educational experience possible."

In the online programs category, UT Martin tied for 51st place nationally in Best Online MBA Programs, tied for 63rd in best Online Master's in Criminal Justice Programs, and tied for 170th in Best Online Master's in Education Programs.

According to U.S. News, more than 1,800 online programs were surveyed to determine the latest rankings.

These rankings follow the August announcement that UT Martin is listed as a Best Regional College by The Princeton Review for the 22nd year.

UT Martin's fall enrollment reached 7,507 students, the highest enrollment at the university since 2012. This compares to 6,950 students who registered in fall 2023, which is an 8% increase. The freshman class totaled 1,220 students, up from 1,118 first-year students who enrolled in fall 2023.

UT Martin is a primary regional campus in the University of Tennessee System offering bachelor's degrees, majors, concentrations and options in more than 150 specialized fields as well as eight graduate degrees. In addition to the main campus, the university has six regional centers in Jackson, Parsons, Selmer, Ripley, Somerville and Springfield. UTMartin Online offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees, including the online Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree for working adults.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Daniel Nappo, professor of Spanish, went to Overton High School in Memphis on Sept. 24 and delivered a presentation about Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Nappo was invited by the staff at Overton to come and give the presentation.

The presentation was called “Las superpoderosas hispanas,” and it was about the Spanish-American independence movements (many of which started in the fall of 1810), important women writers and academics, and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Mexico’s greatest poet.



Dr. Daniel Nappo, professor of Spanish, is shown giving his presentation “Las superpoderosas hispanas” to the student audience at Overton High School in Memphis on Sept. 24. Translated to “The superpowerful Hispanic women,” the presentation was about the Spanish-American movements and important women writers and academics.

Dr. Violet Bumah, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics, and three students – senior Lauren Milam, a chemistry major from Waynesboro; senior DeJa Graves, a chemistry major from Martin; and senior Xavier Jimenez, a chemistry major from McKenzie (photo at right) – attended and presented four abstracts at the Photobiomodulation (PBM2024) Conference Aug. 23-25 in London, United Kingdom.

The PBM2024 conference was organized by the World Association for Photobiomodulation Therapy (WALT), which is one of the leading organizations in the field of light therapy.

Photobiomodulation is the use of light to modulate biological processes.

The titles of the four presentations were:

- “PBM for Reducing Infection: The Role of PBM in Microbial Inactivation, Invasion, and Infection,” presented by Bumah.



Bumah

- “The Effect of Pulsed Blue Light on Commensal Microflora,” presented by Milam.

- “Pulsed Blue Light Inactivates Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV),” presented by Graves.

- “The Effect of Pulsed Blue Light on Fibroblasts and Lung Cells,” presented by Jimenez.

Milam and Jimenez were among the 10 student awards selected from 180 abstracts.

The trip to London was made possible by scholarships from the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the Department of Chemistry.



Three UT Martin senior chemistry majors presented abstracts at the Photobiomodulation Conference in August in London. Pictured are (L-R) Xavier Jimenez, Lauren Milam and DeJa Graves.

Dr. Sean Walker, professor of management in the College of Business and Public Affairs, was featured recently with comments about separate topics in WalletHub.

He was featured in WalletHub’s piece about [Best Coffee Cities in America](#) and in a Q&A titled “[Erie Insurance Review](#).”

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



Walker

The site’s business-related features are supplemented with information from subject-matter experts.

Anoush Lazarian retires from Sodexo



Chancellor Yancy Freeman and Anoush Lazarian, catering manager for Sodexo, display a Skyhawk blanket she received Sept. 24 as a gift from the Office of the Chancellor during a surprise presentation in honor of her upcoming retirement. The presentation came during Hawk Break in the Dunagan Alumni Center and recognized 30 years of service to UTM Dining Services. A campus announcement Sept. 19 from Sodexo read in part, "She has been an integral part of our team (and) has contributed immensely to our success and growth. From the very beginning, Anoush brought not only her expertise but also her passion and dedication. Anoush will be greatly missed, both professionally and personally."

Annual See You at the Pole event held Sept. 25



The Baptist Collegiate Ministry at UT Martin sponsored the national prayer event "See You at the Pole" at 7 a.m., Sept. 25, in front of the Hall-Moody Administration Building. BCM students led the program that included music, prayer, scripture readings and a message from Kylan Mann, senior pastor at Central Baptist Church in Martin. Pictured singing are (L-R in blue shirts) UT Martin students Bella Bone of Dresden, Joshua Townsend of Middleton and Charles Pate of Martin.

Title IX book featuring Summitt, Giles reviewed

“Title IX, Pat Summitt, and Tennessee’s Trailblazers: 50 Years, 50 Stories” by Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel was reviewed Sept. 28 at the Martin Public Library is a discussion led by Dr. Anna Clark.

Many of those on hand either played basketball with UTM alumna Pat Head Summitt or worked with her during her coaching years at the University of Tennessee.

Attendees shared stories of those times and the difficulty that women’s athletics went through, especially in the early years.

On hand for the discussion were Bettye Giles, the only women’s athletics director at UT Martin; Julia Brundige, who played with Summitt at UT Martin; and Danelle Fabianich, associate athletics director for administration and senior woman administrator for UT Martin.



Those in attendance at the review of the book “Title IX, Pat Summitt, and Tennessee’s Trailblazers: 50 Years, 50 Stories” held Sept. 28 at the Martin Public Library included (seated, L-R) Cile Grasfeder, Linda Ramsey, Bettye Giles, Julia Brundige, LeAnn Hamlin, Danelle Fabianich, (standing, L-R) Jim Clark, Annie Schommer, Jeff Bentley, Fannie Robinson, Donna Taylor, Anna Clark, Sue Byrd, Helen Roberts-Niemi, Linda Barclay, Nelda Bushart, Judy Rayburn, Roberta Peacock and Malcolm Koch.

This Week’s Skyhawk Home Events

Saturday, Oct. 5

- *Football vs. Gardner-Webb, 1 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.



Attending the book review of “Title IX, Pat Summitt, and Tennessee’s Trailblazers: 50 Years, 50 Stories” were Bettye Giles (left) and Julia White Brundige. Giles served as UT Martin’s only women’s athletics director from 1971 to 1994 and worked to develop collegiate women’s athletics at UT Martin and throughout the state. One of the chapters in the book is about her. Brundige played two sports at UT Martin from 1972 to 1976, basketball and volleyball, and with Pat Head Summitt, helped UTM women’s basketball to the AIAW state small college championship and national tournament. She is in the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame.

Young Writers Conference scheduled for Nov. 7

The 2024 Young Writers Conference will take place Thursday, Nov. 7, on the main campus of UT Martin.

Designed primarily for students in grades 9-12, the conference offers a series of writing workshops taught by UT Martin faculty and visiting writers.

Students can attend hands-on workshops in writing poetry, fiction and nonfiction, as well as songwriting, literary analysis and professional story of self.

Other events include a luncheon, a keynote address by award-winning journalist and humor columnist Kelly Kazek, and an open mic reading for students.

Students will have an opportunity to read works created during the conference or other original writing created at home or in

school. Throughout the day, students will create pieces of writing, connect with other young writers from the region and learn from outstanding writers and teachers of writing.

The conference is sponsored by the UT Martin Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages with help from the West Tennessee Writing Project.

The conference fee is \$10 for students and free for teachers; it includes all workshops, readings and lunch.

The conference is open to outstanding students recommended by their teachers on the basis of academic achievement and artistic promise.

Teachers may attend the student workshops along with their students.

It is recommended that teachers follow their school's policies in arranging for parent/guardian permissions for students who will be attending the conference.

Registration forms must be received by Friday, Oct. 25, along with payment for the conference registration fee.

Participants can register online one of two ways:

- Individuals: www.utm.edu/ywc
- Groups: www.utm.edu/ywcgroups

Questions regarding registration may be sent to the UT Martin Office of University Outreach, in care of Jennifer Cooper, NonDegree@utm.edu. For questions about the workshops and speakers, contact Dr. Maari Carter, Young Writers Conference coordinator, at mcarter72@utm.edu.

Upcoming Campus Events

Tuesday, Oct. 1

- Lip Sync, 7 p.m., Festival Park, downtown Martin

Friday, Oct. 4

- Civil rights icon and activist Ruby Bridges, noon, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center; doors open at 11 a.m.; free admission; registration required [here](#).
- Pyramid and Pep Rally, 7 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Saturday, Oct. 5 (revised)

- Quad City, 10 a.m., UTM quad.
- Hawk Walk, 10 a.m., UTM quad.

- Homecoming football game vs. Gardner-Webb, 1 p.m., Hardy M. Graham Stadium.
- NPHC Step Show, 7 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Sunday, Oct. 6

- Homecoming brunch, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Skyhawk Dining Hall.

Homecoming info:

alumni.utm.edu/homecoming-24,

T-shirts are on sale at the site. More homecoming information can be found at 731-881-7610.

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



You Tell Me

• **Question** – I saw that there was some construction going on at the Skyhawk Baseball Field. What's going on?

• **Answer** – The university is leveling the field and installing new drainage and irrigation and sod systems while also laying down new skinned clay basepaths. The fencing is also being replaced with padded surfaces per NCAA mandates. This project is athletically funded.

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

addenda

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