

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Oct. 14, 2024

UT Martin welcomes civil rights icon Ruby Bridges



Civil rights icon and activist Ruby Bridges (fourth from left) was the keynote speaker at the second annual Dr. Henry H. Parker Speaker Series on Oct. 4 on the main campus of UT Martin. Posing for a photo opportunity were (L-R) Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts; Dr. Henry H. Parker, retired professor of philosophy; Dr. David A. Coffey, chair of the Department of History and Philosophy; Bridges; Chancellor Yancy Freeman; and Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor of academic affairs.

UTM Young Writers Conference set for Nov. 7

UT Martin will host the 2024 Young Writers Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, at the Boling University Center.

Begun in 2006, the conference is designed primarily for students in grades 9 through 12 and 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 and literary analysis.

This year's guest writer is Kelly Kazek (pronounced "KAY-zick"), an award-winning journalist and humor columnist. She writes stories

about odd roadside attractions and quirky history for AL.com, Alabama's largest media presence.

Kazek has authored 25 books, including "The Southern Thesaurus," and has won more than 150 state and national press awards, including two Alabama Associated Press Sweepstakes Awards for best story of the year and national honors for Best Humorous Commentary and Feature Writer of the Year.

Workshops will be held from 9 to 10:15 a.m. and from 12:45 to 2 p.m. Each session has seven workshops. Kazek will speak from 10:30 to 11:15

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Kazek

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

37 professors take part in online teachers workshop



Last summer, 37 UT Martin faculty members completed a week-long summer workshop focusing on best practices in online teaching. The faculty members represented 12 academic departments across UTM's five academic colleges. Throughout the week, the participants explored new tools for teaching online and implemented research-based strategies in their courses. Staff from UTM Online Programs and the Instructional Technology Center facilitated the workshops. Taking part in the June workshop (left photo) were Dr. Will Bird and Dr. Diana Watson of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Dr. Mark Farley, Dr. Liam Hayes and Dr. Adnan Rasool of the College of Business and Global Affairs; Lauren Campbell, Chris Gillies, Dr. Tina Lee and Dr. Abbie McClure of the College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences; Dr. Violet Bumah, Carlin Bush, Dana Gatewood, Dr. Susan Hamilton, Dr. Sarah Ledford, Dr. Katherine Madden, Dr. Bryan Sandor and Dr. Genessa Smith of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; and Emma Fieser and Dr. Mark Statler of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Taking part in the July workshop (right photo) were Dr. Angela Van Boening and Amanda Waldon of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Dr. Lisa Clifton, Alicia Maya Donaldson, Dr. Mary Giles, Dr. Justin Martin, Michael O'Neill, Dr. Natasha Varnick and Dr. Rick West of the College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences; Dr. Verna Baron, Dr. Lily Pharris and Katie Reams of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; and Dr. Lucia Florido, Dr. Randal Garza, Melanie Hollis, Sarah McCormick, Dr. Daniel Pigg and Stephanie Sellers of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Ronne Cox, assistant professor and electronic resources librarian, participated in the virtual conference Library 2035: Imagining the Next Generation of Libraries, sponsored by the San Jose State University School of Information.

Her presentation, "Meeting them where they are: The future of Academic Libraries" is described [here](#), with a recording and transcript [here](#).

Cox also co-presented the session "Bridging Communities: Collaborative Library Events" with Katie Parr, director of the Martin Public Library at the virtual 2024 Tenn-Share Showcase, sponsored by the Tenn-Share statewide library



Cox

consortium.

Library dean Dr. Erik Nordberg participated as a panelist at the same conference, presenting information about the annual Northwest Tennessee All-Libraries Conference hosted at the Paul Meek Library.

Information about both sessions is available [here](#).

Dr. John LaDue, assistant professor and information literacy librarian, had his paper "Information Literacy: Moving beyond critical to revolutionary" selected as one of two honorable mentions for the 2024 Annual Library Juice Paper Contest.

The selection jury wrote, "All three finalists authored incredibly strong papers, and we highly recommend each."

"We note that the common thread through each is a focus on pedagogical questions of how libraries may move forward, emphasizing solidarity between librarians, civic educators



LaDue

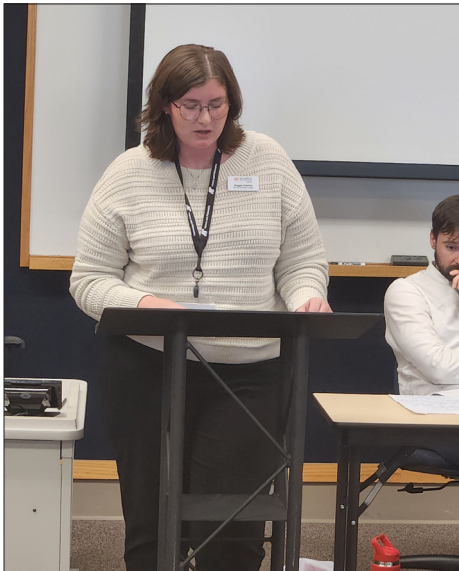
and other stakeholders of democracy."

LaDue's [paper](#) was published earlier this year in the Journal for Critical Education Policy Studies (JCEPS) and information about the contest is available [here](#).

Read more UT Martin news at news.utm.edu

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

Students present at regional history conference



UT Martin was well represented at the 2024 Ohio Valley History Conference, held Oct. 3-5 at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville. Three students presented papers: senior history major Maggie Lynn Gateley of Martin (left) with "A Tear in the Iron Curtain: An Examination of Soviet Authority and Public Reactions at Chernobyl," senior history major Samantha R. Wade of Tullahoma (center) about "George and Martha Washington" and senior history major Shane Tanner of Dover on "Failed Reactions Against Industrialism: Luddites and Owenites." Dr. Richard Garlitz, associate professor of history, chaired two sessions and presented "Morning Again? Popular Music, Resurgence, and Those Left Behind in Early 1980s America" and Dr. Renee LaFleur, associate professor of history, presented "'The Truth is Out There:' Using the X-Files to Teach the 1990s." Dr. Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, also presented "Development of Civil and Commercial Aviation in West Tennessee, 1918-1970."

Applications for 2025-26 Reagan Faculty Leave being accepted

The Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Program is designed to enable participants to become more effective teachers and scholars by engaging in a variety of academic or renewal experiences.

Tenured faculty members with six or more years of full-time service at UT Martin are

eligible.

A faculty member who has been awarded a leave must wait a minimum of three years from the end of a previous leave before applying for a subsequent leave.

Applications for Reagan Leave in the 2025-26 academic year are due to the Office

of Research and Sponsored Programs by Feb. 3, 2025.

Full details are available at the [Hal and Alma Reagan Leave SharePoint Site](#).

For more information, contact the ORSP at 731-881-7015.

UTM Research Series continues with transfer students

The UT Martin Research Series resumes at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 22, in the Paul Meek Library.

Part of the UT Martin's celebration of National Transfer Student Week, this event will showcase research projects involving students who began their educational journey at other institutions before arriving in Martin.

Sarah Morris, student services coordinator, will moderate a panel of undergraduate student researchers reflecting on their experience in the laboratory and in the field.

"UT Martin offers a variety of experiential learning opportunities for students," she said. "In addition to Study Abroad,

internships and real-world work experiences, many students participate in research projects alongside their peers and faculty members."

Transfer students bring additional perspectives to these projects, often through their experience at previous institutions, but also from their different lived experiences before arriving in Martin.

Student panelists for the event have been drawn from a variety of departments and disciplines across campus.



Morris

This free public event will be held in the north reading room of the Paul Meek Library, with a livestream broadcast.

Registration is not required but can be found on the library's Runway event page.

The UT Martin Research Series is co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs and the

Paul Meek Library.

For more information, contact Dr. Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070, or Morris at 731-881-3102.

Arts alumni exhibition to run through Oct. 19

The 2024 Visual and Theatre Arts Alumni Invitational Exhibition will be on display through Saturday, Oct. 19.

The exhibition is open to view in the gallery in the Fine Arts Building from 3 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 1 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The exhibition is held every three years to highlight a small number of UT Martin alumni and their work.

This year's alumni artist roster includes Summer Appleby, Patrick Andrew Green, Isaiah Kennedy, Rachel Leeds, Delilah Prince, Dylan Schaefer and Jason Woolery.

Appleby (UTM Class of 2016) works as an art therapist in Middle Tennessee with youth and adolescents struggling with their mental health journey. She also serves as a social media representative for the Tennessee Art Therapy Association and conducts introductory art therapy workshops at Middle Tennessee State University.

Green (UTM Class of 2004) is a ceramic artist and sculptor based in Middle Tennessee. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from UT Martin and a Master of Fine Arts degree in ceramics from Eastern Michigan University. He serves as a faculty member in the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts at Vol State Community College.

Kennedy (UTM Class of 2022) is a maker who was born and raised in rural West Tennessee. He earned his

Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in studio art from UT Martin and is a current Master of Fine Arts degree candidate in painting at the University of Memphis.

Leeds (UTM Class of 2018) is a graphic designer and artist based in Champaign, Illinois. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design from UT Martin in 2018 and graduated from the University of Illinois with a Master of Fine Arts degree in 2020. She works as a multimedia designer for World Relief, a Christian humanitarian organization focused on response to global crises in partnership with the church.

Prince (UTM Class of 2020) is a mixed-media artist from Camden. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in art education from UT Martin in 2020. She is a Master of Fine Arts degree candidate in

painting at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois.

Schaefer (UTM Class of 2022) is the graphic designer for Discovery Park of America in Union City. He graduated from UT Martin in December 2022 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design.

Woolery (UTM Class of 2007) is based in Martin and serves as assistant professor of ceramics and sculpture at UT Martin. He is the coordinator for the Martin Empty Bowls Project.

The exhibition is hosted by the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

For more information, contact Clay Palmer, gallery coordinator, at 731-881-7417 or email Palmer at jpalme36@utm.edu.

This Week's Skyhawk Home Events

Friday, Oct. 18

- Equestrian vs. UC-Davis, 10 a.m., Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.
- *Women's volleyball vs. Lindenwood, 6 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Saturday, Oct. 19

- *Rifle vs. Morehead State, all day, Skyhawk Rifle Range.
- Equestrian vs. Oklahoma State, noon, Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.
- *Women's volleyball vs. Lindenwood, 2 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.
* - 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.



UTM to host Bellwethers Juried Exhibition

The Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, in partnership with the West Tennessee Regional Art Center, will host the seventh annual Bellwethers Juried Collegiate Student Exhibition, an exhibition of artwork created by undergraduate students from two- and four-year institutions throughout Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina and Virginia.

The exhibition will be held from Monday, Oct. 21, through Friday, Nov. 15, at the West Tennessee Regional Art Center in Humboldt.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. A closing reception and awards ceremony will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Nov. 15.

The Bellwethers competition is a long-standing annual

tradition at UT Martin, beginning in 2000 as Artists of the 21st Century before going through a rebranding in 2018.

At the exhibition's inception, Lane Last and Doug Cook - both now retired from the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts - worked together to create an exhibition that allowed college students to showcase their artwork and network with other artists across the region.

With Last's retirement in July 2024 after 25 years of teaching, the exhibition has continued under new oversight, but his legacy carries on.

"After Lane's retirement, we wanted to make sure that there was a way to honor all the hard work and dedication he put into making this exhibition possible," said Clay Palmer, gallery and events coordinator



Palmer

and current coordinator of the Bellwethers exhibition. "So, the Visual and Theatre Arts faculty met together and decided that creating the Lane Last Award for Best in Show was the best way to do that."

This year's exhibition was particularly competitive, with only 92 accepted works from the total 257 individual pieces submitted from across the nine eligible states.

EPP Diversity Conference to be held Oct. 16

The UT Martin Educator Preparation Program in the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences will host its third annual Diversity Conference from 1 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16, in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom.

This year's conference topic is "Embracing and Fostering Inclusive Classrooms" and includes presentations from local education professionals.

The keynote speaker for the conference is Lathon Ross, a 2023 graduate from UT Martin and the Call Me MiSTER program. He is currently a fourth-grade math and science teacher at Paris Elementary School. The Call Me MiSTER program was founded originally at Clemson University in 2000.

The program strives to increase the pool of available teachers from a more diverse background, particularly among the country's lowest performing elementary schools.

The conference will also feature workshops that focus on nurturing relationships between families and schools, supporting students' mental health, and managing student behavior while fostering inclusive classrooms.

Workshop speakers for the conference include Dr. Tina Williams, assistant principal at Dyersburg High School; Mildred



Lathon Ross, a 2023 UT Martin graduate and the guest speaker at the third annual Diversity Conference on Oct. 16, is shown speaking at a prior event. Ross is a fourth-grade math and science teacher at Paris Elementary School.

Harber, counselor at Finley Elementary School in Dyer County; and Tim Stratton, science teacher and coach at Northside High School in Madison County.

The Educator Prep Program prepares teachers to become facilitators of active learning for preschool through 12th-grade students through a variety of diverse field-placement opportunities. The program has

diversified teacher preparation pathways to accommodate the recent need for licensed educators in all program areas across the state.

For more information about the conference or UT Martin's Educator Prep Program, contact Dr. Cheryl Stewart, EPP program manager, at cstewa72@utm.edu or 731-881-7201.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – The recent homecoming weekend featured the annual Quad City as a main activity. Why did Quad City replace the homecoming parade, and when did Quad City begin?

• **Answer** – Quad City began in fall 2004 and was modeled after "The Grove" at the University of Mississippi. The event encouraged organizations of all sizes to participate and brought alumni together into the heart of the campus. The homecoming parade began around 1955 and was retired in 2005 so students could focus on Quad City. Quad City continues to be successful. Although actual attendance numbers are difficult to determine since there's no central entry point for the event, the Office of Alumni Relations reports that the number of large-tent entries for this year's Quad City was the largest in the event's history.

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

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOV. 5
TENNESSEE EARLY VOTING IS OCT. 16-31

UTM ranks among top 3% for international students

In this year's [Study Abroad Aide World University Rankings for International Students](#), UT Martin jumped from 1,420th in the 2024 rankings to 207th in the 2025 rankings.

That moved UT Martin from the top 18% of schools for international students to the top 3%.

UTM also ranks 68th among colleges and universities in the United States and 40th among U.S. public colleges and universities.

In last year's inaugural Study Abroad Aide rankings, UT Martin ranked 317th among U.S. colleges and universities and 196th among U.S. public colleges and universities.

Study Abroad Aide ranked UT Martin 159th worldwide in its World Best Value University Rankings for International Students (top 2%), 50th among U.S. colleges and universities and 31st among U.S. public colleges and universities.

In last year's inaugural Study Abroad Aide ranking, UTM ranked 1,046th in the Best



Value ranking, 229th among U.S. colleges and universities and 169th among U.S. Public colleges and universities.

"The high-quality collegiate atmosphere that UT Martin offers - at such a reasonable cost - appeals to students from all over the world and we're pleased to be recognized for that," said Dr. Joe Ostenson, interim director of the Center for Global Education and Experience. "These rankings are a

testament to the hard work of our Office of International Student Services."

Study Abroad Aide describes itself as a resource for international students "recognizing institutions that have made significant strides in the global higher education landscape."

It ranked 8,536 institutions worldwide in its 2025 rankings, adding eight countries to this year's rankings.

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a.m., and lunch will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Skyhawk Dining Hall. An open mic featuring student reading will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. in Room 111 of the Boling University Center.

Workshop leaders include 12 members of the UT Martin faculty and Simon Van Booy,

an award-winning bestselling author of more than a dozen books for adults and children, including "The Illusion of Separateness" and "The Presence of Absence."

UTM faculty members participating as workshop leaders include **Dr. Kelle Alden**, associate professor of English and the director of

the Hortense Parrish Writing Center; **Dr. Kassie Baron**, assistant professor of English; **Sally Brannen**, lecturer of English; **Dr. Trisha Capansky**, associate professor of English; **Dr. David Carithers**, associate professor of English; **Dr. Maari Carter**, assistant professor of English; **Dr. Kailyn Hall**, assistant professor of English; **Dr. Kyoko Hammond**, lecturer of Japanese; **Dr. Chris Hill**, professor of English; **Dr. Jeffrey Longacre**, professor of English; **Dr. Logan Musser**, adjunct professor of English; **Dr. Dan Pigg**, professor of English; and **David Williams**, lecturer of English.

The conference fee is \$10 for students and free for teachers, which 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. Recommending teachers are asked to follow their school's policies in arranging for parent or 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. Individuals should register at www.utm.edu/ywc, while groups should register at www.utm.edu/ywcgroups.

Upcoming Campus Events

Wednesday, Oct. 16

- Diversity Conference, 1-5 p.m., Duncan Ballroom, Boling University Center.

Now-Saturday, Oct. 19

- Visual and Theatre Arts Alumni Invitational Exhibition, 3-7 p.m. through Oct. 17, 1-5 p.m. Oct. 18-19, Fine Arts Building Gallery.

Saturday, Oct. 19

- 21st annual Martin Empty Bowls Project, 8 a.m.-noon, Martin Public Library Stage.
- Fall Harvest Festival, 8 a.m.-noon, Martin Farmers Market, 101 Main St.

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

addenda