

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Nov. 25, 2024

## Skyhawks soar into FCS playoffs



Members of the UT Martin football team react to the Martin Skyhawks' spot in the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs at the watch party held Nov. 24 in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. The bracket can be seen on the screen in the background. The unseeded Skyhawks (8-4) will play at No. 16 New Hampshire (8-4) at noon CT on Saturday, Nov. 30. UT Martin is one of three Big South-Ohio Valley Conference Football Association teams to qualify for the 24-team playoff, joining Southeast Missouri (9-3) and Tennessee State (9-3), who are also unseeded teams in the playoff bracket. For the fourth straight year, the Skyhawks have claimed or shared first place in the conference standings. UTM won the OVC title outright in 2021 and tied for first in 2022. It then tied for the inaugural Big South-OVC title last season and was part of a four-way tie for first this season, equaling the conference records of Southeast Missouri, Tennessee State and Tennessee Tech at 6-2. More information can be found at the UT Martin athletics website at [utmsports.com](https://utmsports.com). The 2024 FCS playoff bracket can be found [here](#).

# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

**Dr. Abigail Shelton**, professor of chemistry, published a research project that she co-authored as a chemistry article.

The title of the journal article was “Synthesis and photophysics of platinum capped phenylene ethynylene oligomers.”

The article was published in the current issue of *Arkivoc*, an open-access organic chemistry journal. The article includes chemical structures and spectra.

A .pdf of the article can be



Shelton

found [here](#).

**Melissa Wood** (at left in the photo), lecturer in Family and Consumer Sciences Education, was elected as Region 2 councilor for Phi Upsilon Omicron National Honor Society in family consumer sciences.

In this role, she serves on the National Council of Phi Upsilon Omicron for the next

four years, representing chapter advisors and alumni for all chapters in the southeastern region of the United States.

Pictured with her is Bailee Bradley, an FCS graduate student and 4-H educator, who was elected to the National Council as the collegiate representative for Region 2.



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

**Dr. ZeVida A. Jones**, assistant professor of counseling, and **Dr. Derrick Shepard**, assistant professor of counseling, presented “Moving Beyond Silo Research Teams: Intentional Cross-Cultural Research” at the 2024 Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES).

Their presentation aligns with their ongoing efforts to dismantle research silos in the counseling profession.

Jones and Shepard, along with a colleague from the University of the Cumberlands, co-presented this session.

In another session, Jones, Shepard and Dr. Claire Dempsey of the University of Memphis – along with two students from UTM’s Clinical Mental Health Counseling program – presented on teaching research in a master’s level asynchronous program.

Their presentation, “Online Research Courses Can Work!: Strategies for Teaching Courses to Masters-Level Students,” is based on Shepard’s work revitalizing the counseling program research course to meet CACREP standards.

Jones also participated as a panelist at the 2024 SACES Job Talk, “Tips & Tricks for the Job Search,” co-facilitated by Shepard and two doctoral



Jones



Shepard

candidates.

Drawing from her extensive experience working internationally in Xiamen, China, she shared valuable insights on identifying recruitment and job opportunities.

Jones provided effective networking strategies, highlighted key resources to aid in the job search process and offered inspiration for those entering the job market.

**Dr. Laura Hatch**, assistant professor of accounting, was featured in the online story “[Best Debt Consolidation Loans](#)” on WalletHub.com.

WalletHub, based in Washington, D.C., is a financial website that offers information such as credit-improvement advice and personalized savings alerts. Its business-related features are supplemented with information from subject-matter experts.



Hatch

# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

**Dr. Adnan Rasool**, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning and associate professor of political science, was recently quoted in *QS Insights Magazine*, a prestigious publication by Quacquarelli Symonds, one of the world's leading providers of analytics and insight for the global higher education sector.

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

In the article examining whether university degrees can keep pace with evolving career

paths, Rasool provided insights on the enduring importance of university education in developing fundamental skills and capabilities.

"The thing about university education is that it builds social capital and gives you a toolkit," he said.

He emphasized that the value of a comprehensive university curriculum cannot be replaced by short-term courses, stating

that "these skills will [not] be gained through some magical course, and not through a sustained and organized curriculum that nearly every single university runs."

Rasool's contribution to the discussion highlights the continued relevance of traditional university education in preparing students for diverse career paths while building essential transferable skills.



Rasool

**Dr. Shalmali Bandyopadhyay**, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, was awarded a National Science Foundation-Association for Women in Mathematics (NSF-AWM) grant.

She plans to travel to the 14th Adventures In Math and Science Conference on Dynamical Systems, Differential Equations and Applications taking place Dec. 16-20 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The Association for Women in

Mathematics has administered the NSF-AWM Travel Grant Program for Women since 1988.

Funded by NSF Grant DMS-2015440, it supports travel to domestic and foreign research conferences.

Enabling women mathematicians to attend conferences in their fields provides them a valuable opportunity to advance their research activities and their visibility in the research community.



Bandyopadhyay

The mathematics travel grants provide full or partial support for travel and subsistence

for a meeting or conference in the applicant's field of specialization.

The AWM will reimburse actual expenses up to \$3,500 in airfare, lodging and meals for Bandyopadhyay's travel.

The Travel Grant Program continues to attract applicants of exceptional quality, and it is always the case that many deserving applicants cannot be funded. On average, only one-third of those applying can be supported.

**Dr. Joaquín Goyret**, professor of biology, and colleagues from the University of Arizona and Cornell University have published an article entitled "[Dying of thirst: Osmoregulation by a hawkmoth pollinator in response to variability in ambient humidity and nectar availability](#)" in the December 2024 issue of the *Journal of Insect Physiology*.

The study experimentally addresses mechanisms to monitor the health of insect pollinators facing physiological



Goyret

challenges due to climate-induced changes in flowering patterns and nectar offered in the Southwest U.S.

**UT MARTIN**  
*Research Series*  
**"Molding Minds: Media, Money & Manipulation"**  
Tuesday, December 10th @ 6:30  
Martin Public Library

"Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one," notes LaDue, quoting A.J. Liebling, a New Yorker columnist describing newspaper consolidation more than 60 years ago. Since then, media consolidation has increased, with six huge conglomerates currently controlling more than 90% of the news and entertainment industry. "We'll show how ownership and control of the media affects not only what we see and hear, but even how we think."

**John LaDue**  
Assistant Professor, Information Literacy

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

# Alumna's foundation donates to UTM Call Me MiSTER

Crystal Renee Hayslett, a UT Martin alumna, returned to campus Nov. 16 for a Gratitude Luncheon event and to present the UTM Call Me MiSTER program with a \$5,000 donation on behalf of the Crystal Renee Hayslett Foundation.

Hayslett and members of her team were guests in the chancellor's box at the Skyhawks football game against Tennessee Tech that day at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

Hayslett received the 2021 Outstanding Young Alumni Award for outstanding achievement in her profession.

She has been a standout costume designer for several motion pictures, including several films produced by Tyler Perry.

Hayslett has also been involved in front of the camera, including the film "Praise This" and most recently in the TV series "Sistas" and "Zatima," seen on BET.

Hayslett is also the founder and host of the "Keep it Positive Sweetie" podcast and a philanthropist.

The Call Me MiSTER (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) program was founded originally at Clemson University in 2000. The Clemson Call Me MiSTER website lists 28 participating colleges and 17 national partner

schools (including UT Martin) nationwide. It is the only program of its kind in the state of Tennessee.

The program strives to increase the pool of available teachers from a more diverse background, particularly among the state's lowest-performing elementary schools. Student participants are largely selected from among underserved, socioeconomically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities.

The program was launched at UTM in the fall 2017 semester and is coordinated through the UTM College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences. Applicants must be Tennessee residents; be accepted to UTM;

enrolled to study early childhood education, special education or middle grades education; be eligible for the Tennessee Hope Scholarship Program; and have a composite ACT score of 21 or better.

Its first graduating class completed the program in May 2023.

Hayslett graduated from UT Martin in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies. She was born and raised in Martin.

More information about the UT Martin Call Me MiSTER program can be found at [www.utm.edu/callmemister](http://www.utm.edu/callmemister) or by calling 731-881-7210.

## Remaining 2024 Skyhawk Home Events

### Saturday, Dec. 7

- Men's basketball vs. Montreat, 4 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

### Sunday, Dec. 15

- Women's basketball vs. Arkansas State, 1 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- Men's basketball vs. Champion Christian, 3:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

### Sunday, Dec. 29

- Women's basketball vs. Fisk, 1 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- \* - conference competition
- Full athletics schedules can be found at [utmsports.com](http://utmsports.com).
- Watch "Skyhawk Sports Talk" each week, archived at [utmsports.com](http://utmsports.com)! New episodes are posted each Monday.



Shown at the presentation of a \$5,000 donation to the UTM Call Me MiSTER program are (l-r) Call Me MiSTER program director Dr. Austin Ferrell; junior integrated studies major Jesse Amesquita of South Fulton; junior integrated studies major Lamarious Stray of Hickman, Kentucky; senior health and human performance major Charles Hockett of Ridgely; Crystal Renee Hayslett; first-year integrated studies major Jerry Porter of Milan; first-year secondary education major Austin Brooks of Dyersburg; sophomore integrated studies major Kameron Myles of Jackson; and Call Me MiSTER program coordinator Dr. Mary Giles. The students are all participants in the UT Martin Call Me MiSTER program.

# Programming team places third in regional contest

The UT Martin Department of Computer Science hosted the 2024 International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) Mid-Central USA Regional Contest on Nov. 9 at the Paul Meek Library.

This contest covers the geographic region of Tennessee, Arkansas, Illinois (including the Greater Chicago Metropolitan Area in Indiana), Kentucky and Missouri.

The ICPC is the world's oldest, largest and most prestigious programming competition, with its first finals held in 1977 in conjunction with the Association for Computing Machinery. UTM has participated in the contest for over 35 years and has served as a host site for eight years.

This year, the UTM site welcomed 27 students and eight coaches, representing three teams from UTM, two teams from Southeast Missouri State University, four teams from Rhodes College in Memphis and one team from Murray State University.

Across the Mid-Central region, a total of 77 teams competed simultaneously in the five-hour contest.

The competition challenged participants to solve 15 coding problems that teams worked to solve within a five-hour time limit.

Team UTM1 finished in third place, ranking 47th in the region. It successfully solved four problems, showcasing their ability to compete at a high level against teams from across the region.

This strong performance demonstrated UTM's dedication to fostering talent and excellence in computer science.

Attending from the UTM Department of Computer Science were **Dr. Bob Lowe**, contest site director and coach; **Bob**



Shown taking part in the International Collegiate programming Contest Mid-Central USA Regional Contests at UT Martin on Nov. 9 are Team UTM1 members Josiah Tripp (left) and Kimble Culley. Team UTM1 placed third, solving four coding problems in five hours. The team ranks 47th in the region.

**Bradley**, department chair; and **Dr. Lily Pharris**, student volunteer coordinator.

Representing the Paul Meek Library was **Heidi Bush**, associate professor of library science, while **Nathan Wisher** and **Ed Vega** from the UTM Information Technology Services provided technical support and managed the contest computers.

The following UTM students participated in the competition: Team UTM1 included junior computer science major Josiah Tripp of South Fulton and junior computer

science major Kimble Culley of Paris, while Team UTM2 featured senior computer science major James Hart of Jackson and junior interdisciplinary studies major Blanca Negrete of Riverbank, California, and Team UTM3 consisted of junior computer science major Justin Finn of Pinson and sophomore computer science major Lizette Navarrete of Clarksville.

Additionally, several other UTM students volunteered their time to help ensure the success of the contest.

## You Tell Me

• **Question** – What is the budgetary impact of UT Martin student athletes on the university from the perspective of tuition, housing and other revenue these students help to generate?

• **Answer** – Athletics is provided a little over \$4.6 million in grant-in-aid funding from the university. This allotment is spread out to the university's 19 sponsored sports, which bring in over 500 athletes, trainers, managers and student assistants. None of the sports at UT Martin are fully funded, based on NCAA limits and funding models. Of the 500 students, the individuals that are on partial scholarships and walk-ons generate over \$5.28 million in outside revenue from various sources (Pell grants, loans, HOPE Scholarships or parental assistance).

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

# Students attend virtual TVA fall regional conference



The UTM-TVA fall session portfolio managers enrolled in the Finance 411 class attended and presented their investment strategy and trading activities at the fall TVA regional virtual conference on Nov. 8. The UTM portfolio managers fielded questions from Tennessee Valley Authority professionals and other student portfolio managers from participating schools. Those participating from UT Martin included (l-r) Kayla Potete of Waynesboro; Toby Bolkcom of Millington; Luke Jackson of Martin; Mason VanCleave of Martin; Aaron Bartholomew of Parsons; Nathan Jones of McKenzie; Madison Everett of Bolivar; Archie Scott of Huntsville, Alabama; Fisher Jones of Milan; Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance, of Martin; Zach Crawford of Dresden; and Adrianna McCann of Martin.

## Campus Calendar

**Monday, Dec. 2**

- Martin Christmas Parade, 7 p.m., University Street and Lindell Street.

**Saturday, Dec. 14**

- Commencement exercises, 10 a.m., College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- Commencement exercises,

2 p.m., College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

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

## City Christmas parade to be held Dec. 2

The Martin Kiwanis Christmas Parade will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2.

The parade lineup will be held in the Hardy M. Graham Stadium parking lot and will proceed toward downtown on University Street.

The parade will turn left onto Lindell Street and go through

downtown Martin.

“I think having the parade at night enhances the experience,” said Katie Parr, director of the Martin Public Library and chair of the Christmas parade. “Any floats or vehicles that want to add Christmas lights are much more noticeable after the sun goes down.”

## addenda

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