

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Dec. 2, 2024

Sharing information at Town and Gown



Chancellor Yancy Freeman discusses UT Martin's 2025-30 new strategic plan at the Town and Gown meeting held Dec. 2 at the Dunagan Alumni Center. The University of Tennessee at Martin and the City of Martin Town and Gown Association provides a network of resources for students, faculty, staff, businesses and residents to collaborate services, events, programs, recreation, commerce and education to create an improved quality of life. The UT Martin and the City of Martin Town and Gown Association is the impetus for fostering community and university pride and is the link for connecting services, events and programs. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs is the university's home for the Town and Gown Association.

Castleman directs student health and counseling

Allison Castleman loves helping people stay healthy, both mentally and physically.

The Greenfield native, 2011 UT Martin nursing graduate and nurse practitioner joined the university before the start of the fall 2024 semester from the Tennessee Department of Health to become the director of UT Martin's Student Health and Counseling Services.

Her previous position included providing health services for Weakley and Carroll counties, so Castleman is prepared for the transition to caring for the university's student population.

Castleman replaced longtime center director Shannon Deal, who left the university in 2023 when her husband, Dr. Charley Deal, was named vice chancellor

of advancement for the UT Institute of Agriculture.

Castleman sees her new role as a way to make a lifetime impact on her patients.

"As a health-care provider, my ultimate goal's always been to care for patients, help them to be just the best version of themselves," she said. "In Student Health

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Shannon Perry, director of the Office of Student Conduct and Care, and **Priscilla Price**, coordinator for the Office of Student Conduct and Care, presented at the Southern Association for College Student Affairs conference Nov. 3.

Their session, titled “Proactive Engagement: Collaborating to Create a Transformative Culture of Care,” offered attendees valuable insights into UTM’s innovative approach to supporting student well-being and success.

The Office of Student Conduct and Care oversees a wide array of initiatives aimed at fostering a holistic approach to student life, including care coordination through the Care



Perry

Team, addressing conduct and academic integrity cases, Title IX investigations, non-clinical case management and providing outreach, support and engagement.

During their presentation, Perry and Price shared the university’s commitment



Price

to proactive engagement emphasizing the importance of early intervention and a strong support network.

They said that positive childhood experiences have a lasting impact on emotional well-being, which in turn can improve academic success.

Furthermore, engagement activities that promote emotions like joy, gratitude, compassion and contentment are crucial for helping students manage stress, increase resilience and strengthen their sense of community.

By focusing on proactive engagement, the UTM team demonstrated how prevention and awareness initiatives can significantly contribute to student retention and success.

Perry and Price’s presentation highlighted the critical role of collaboration in building a transformative, student-centered environment that fosters academic achievement and emotional well-being.

Dr. David Carithers, associate professor of English, published an article titled “Freedom of Choice: Re-reading Catharine Maria Sedgwick’s ‘Hope Leslie’” in the November issue of *The CEA Critic: An Official Journal of the College English Association*.

The article highlights the 19th-century novel’s emphasis on women’s autonomy in decisions about marriage and reproduction.



Carithers

Fall commencement set for Dec. 14

Two commencement ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

The 10 a.m. ceremony will feature undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and the College of Business and Global Affairs.

Undergraduate majors for this ceremony include agricultural general, agricultural business, natural resources management, geosciences, veterinary science and technology, family and consumer sciences, accounting, economics, finance, political science, international studies, management, marketing and information systems.

Graduate majors include agricultural and natural resources systems management, family and consumer sciences and business administration.

The 2 p.m. ceremony will feature undergraduate and

graduate students in the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences; the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Undergraduate majors for this ceremony include nursing, special education, education: integrated studies, secondary education, sociology, social work, criminal justice, psychology, health and human performance, Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, biology, chemistry, engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science, mathematics, fine and performing arts, communications, English, Spanish, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Arts in Music, philosophy and history.

Graduate majors include criminal justice, teaching, counseling, educational leadership and strategic communication.

Campus Calendar

Thursday, Dec. 12

- Santa’s Village, 6-9 p.m., Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

Friday, Dec. 13

- Santa’s Village, 6-9 p.m., Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

Saturday, Dec. 14

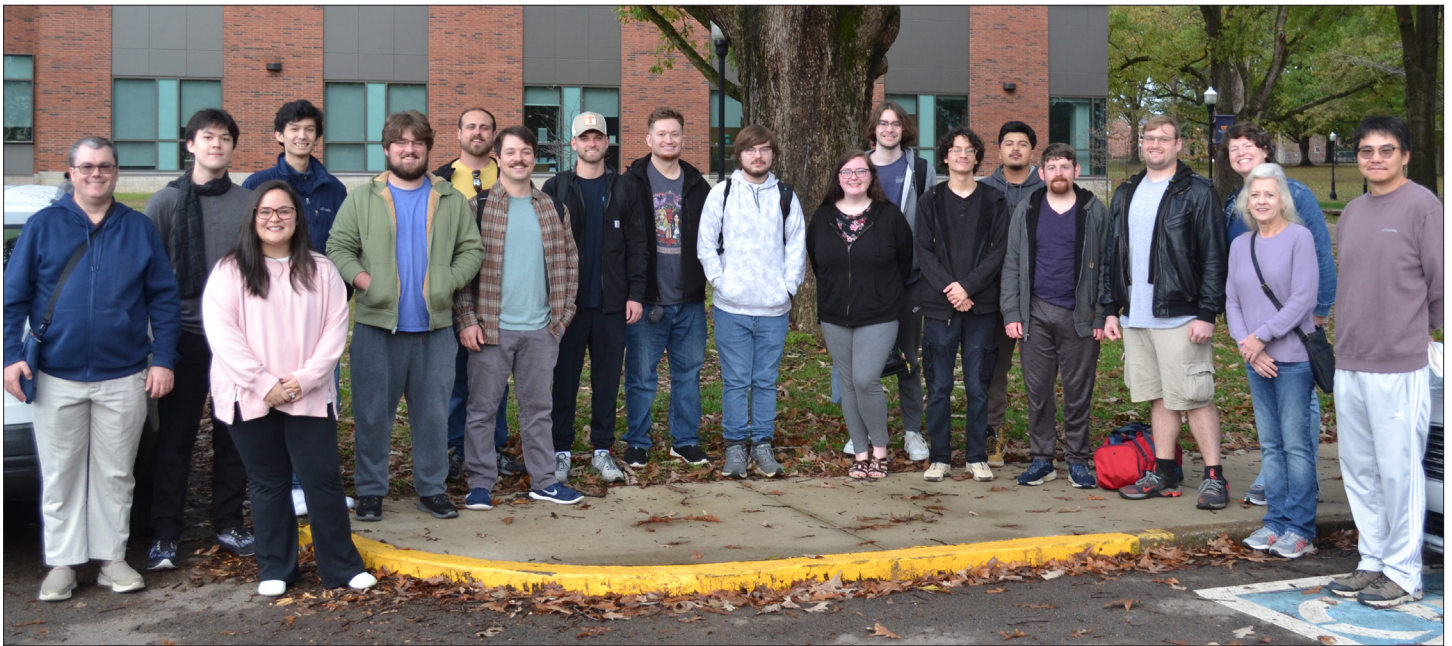
- Commencement exercises, 10 a.m., College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- Commencement exercises,

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.

- Santa’s Village, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

Sunday, Dec. 15

- Santa’s Village, 1-5 p.m., Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.



Shown attending the 2024 Association for Computing Machinery Conference in Gatlinburg are (front row, l-r) assistant professor of computer science Dr. Bob Lowe, director of information technology services Olivia Fernandez, Daniel Cunningham, Zach Coomer, Jace Riley, Chase Duclos, Colin Douglas, Tiffany Decker, Hoki Joyner, Logan Walsh, Jeremy Gordon, assistant professor of computer science Dr. Lily Pharris, administrative associate Dawn Dill, assistant professor of computer science Dr. Qing Wang, (back row, l-r) Vance Brenderabrandis, Kenneth Wallace, Jordan Taylor, Ethan Buchanan and Diego Arriaga. Not pictured is interim Department of Computer Science Chair Bob Bradley.

Students take part at computer science conference

The Department of Computer Science's senior seminar class attended the Association for Computing Machinery Mid-Southeast Conference, held Nov. 14-15 in Gatlinburg.

Fourteen computer science and cybersecurity students attended the event, presenting a total of five team projects that showcased their hard work, technical skills and innovation.

The conference also highlighted contributions from computer science faculty including:

- **Bob Bradley:** "Can ChatGPT Solve All the OpenKattis Problems?"
- **Dr. Qing Wang:** "VC-Dimension and Visibility."
- **Dr. Bob Lowe:** "Coding Through the Decades."

Accompanying the group were assistant

professor of computer science **Dr. Lily Pharris**, administrative associate **Dawn Dill** and director of information technology services **Olivia Fernandez**, who taught the senior seminar course this semester.

The ACM Conference provided an exceptional opportunity for students to share their research projects, engage with the computer science community and gain valuable professional experience.

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

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)

Allison Castleman (seated, second from right) joined UT Martin before the start of the fall 2024 semester as the new director of UT Martin's Student Health and Counseling Services. She leads the university's student-health team that includes (standing, l-r) Jenny Harrison, administrative assistant; Stefanie Gray, nurse practitioner; Stephanie Hayslett, counselor; Patricia Floyd, licensed practical nurse; Karen Miles, counselor; and (seated, l-r) Brandon Keller, clinical case manager; Jordan Gardner, administrative specialist; Castleman; and John'Na Webster, health and wellness educator.



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.
- Watch "Skyhawk Sports Talk" each week, archived at utmsports.com! New episodes are posted each Monday.



CASTLEMAN from PAGE 1

and Counseling, I really have a unique opportunity to provide early intervention (for students) ... and create meaningful impact on their health and well-being for the rest of their adult lives."

Castleman has multiple health-care interests, many of which she explored and applied in her previous position with the Tennessee Department of Health.

Education is a priority for Castleman, who plans to be visible on campus as the Student Health and Counseling Services staff communicate and build relationships. As part of the university's student affairs division, her top goal is to help students stay healthy so they can be successful academically.

"First and foremost, my biggest goal is awareness," she said. "I want people to know that we're here. I want to create meaningful relationships with our students, with faculty and

with staff."

Although still new to her position, Castleman has quickly assessed existing resources and what student health needs to accomplish to support a growing enrollment, which could expand significantly with Chancellor Yancy Freeman's goal to grow to 10,000 students by 2030.

Needs include assuring that students have timely access to physical and mental care and continuing partnerships with community organizations. Telehealth services for after-hours care are also possible.

"We also hope to eventually have a new location that might be a little bit easier for students to access and also space to expand our services," she said. "We're a little bit limited where we are currently."

Immediate help to address growing mental health needs is on the way in the form of a grant announced earlier this

fall by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Called the "Promoting the Integration of Primary and Behavioral Healthcare Grant," this will involve a partnership with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

The program focuses on integrating behavioral health services with the university's Student Health and Counseling Services and will provide personnel to work with the current staff.

Learn more about UT Martin's Student Health and Counseling Services at 731-881-7750 or email shcs@utm.edu. Staff are also available to talk with prospective students and their families during UT Martin events such as Preview Days and Summer Orientation and Registration.

Football advances in national playoffs

UT Martin put forth a dominant display on Nov. 30, stifling the No. 16 New Hampshire Wildcats by a 41-10 margin in the opening round of the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs.

The Skyhawks (9-4) will visit top-seeded Montana State at 2 p.m. CT Dec. 7 in the round of 16 teams.

The victory was the second playoff win in the Skyhawks' FCS Era (since 1992), joining the 2021 squad's first-round win at No. 10 Missouri State.

The FCS Round of 16 matchup at Montana State will be the second outing against the Bobcats in school history, both taking place in the playoffs. The Skyhawks previously visited Bozeman, Montana, in Round 2 of the 2021 postseason, falling 26-7 to the eventual national runner-up.

Details about the Skyhawks' win on Nov. 30 and the game on Dec. 7 can be found at utmsports.com.



Senior wide receiver Trevonte Rucker finds a hole and some running room in the Skyhawks' playoff game at 16th-seeded New Hampshire on Nov. 30. Rucker was one of five players to score a rushing touchdown in the 41-10 win. UT Martin will play at top-seeded Montana State on Dec. 7.

Martin marks 40th annual Santa's Village

The 40th annual Santa's Village celebration will be held Dec. 12-15 at the Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex north of Hardy M. Graham Stadium. Parking is available in the stadium parking lot.

Santa's Village will be open from 6 to 9

p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12, and Friday, Dec. 13; from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14; and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15.

Santa's Village is a holiday collaboration between the City of Martin and UT Martin.

The Christmas celebration includes an

enchanted forest, vendors, rides, a petting zoo, a model train and Santa Claus himself.

Admission is free, and there is a suggested donation of \$5 worth of canned goods or toys.

The food and toys will go to We Care Ministries of Martin.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – What's the status of the Latimer-Smith Building's observatory? Also, what's in that space, and who can have access once the observatory is open and operating?

• **Answer** – The Latimer-Smith Building Observatory is an exciting addition to the university's STEM facilities. The observatory will house a brand-new 17-inch Corrected Dall-Kirkham telescope with a research-grade camera from ZWO that is maintained and operated by the Department of Chemistry and Physics. The observatory will open once final installation of items for the observatory are completed, which is anticipated to occur during the upcoming (2024-25) winter break. The observatory also houses a portable 6-inch achromatic refractor, 8-inch SCT reflector and several other smaller scopes. The observatory will allow for research projects with interested students as part of the physics minor program and collaborations with other departments. In addition, plans are to have regular open-house events for the public and by reservation for everyone from student organizations to department faculty and staff to classes from local schools. A new "astronomy club" is planned and open to anyone interested in planning and hosting events.

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

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