

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Dec. 9, 2024

## Watching the line



UTM graduate safety Josh Hastings (5) gets a bird's eye view – a Skyhawk's eye view – of the Montana State offensive line Dec. 7 in UT Martin's Round of 16 playoff game against the top-seeded Bobcats. More information about UTM athletics in general and the football team in particular can be found at [utmsports.com](https://utmsports.com). For more information about the game, see Page 6. (Photo courtesy of UTM Sports Information)

## Williams named guest speaker at fall commencement

Dr. Reginald Williams Sr., principal at Memphis Overton High School, will speak at UT Martin during two fall commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 14, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Commencement times are 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and tickets are not required to attend either ceremony. Doors will open 45 minutes before each ceremony begins. Approximately 500 total graduates who completed degrees in summer and fall 2024 are expected to participate in the two ceremonies.

Williams is a 1985 UT Martin geosciences

graduate and was elected twice as Student Government Association president while attending the university. He later earned a master's degree from Trevecca University in Nashville and education specialist and education doctorate degrees from Union University in Jackson.

In addition to his academic degrees, Williams has earned multiple certifications, taught science and mathematics, and coached boys' basketball for nine years at Bolton High School, where he led his teams to six district championships, three regional finals and two state tournaments in a sport

he never played.

Williams has also been a successful high school principal for 19 years at traditional, private and charter schools. In 2022, Williams received the District 9 TSSAA Principal of the Year award, and he was twice a finalist for Principal of the Year in Memphis-Shelby County Schools. He was recognized in October by the Memphis City Council as an outstanding principal during National Principals Month.

The Memphis educator has written two books: "The 7 Keys to Success (A

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# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Carithers

**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.

**Dr. Shalmali Bandyopadhyay** was selected by the American Mathematical Society (AMS) as a recipient of a Joint Mathematics Meeting Travel Grant for Primarily Undergraduate Institution Faculty.

The AMS offered \$2,130 for travel support for Bandyopadhyay’s attendance at the 2025 Joint Mathematics Meetings on Jan. 8-11 in Seattle, Washington.

The AMS seeks applications from faculty at all career stages at primarily undergraduate institutions who can identify



Bandyopadhyay

benefits to their research, teaching, or departmental leadership from participating in the JMM.

**Dr. Dawn Wilkins** of the Department of Biological Sciences was elected president-elect at the annual Meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science at Lincoln Memorial University (LMU) in Harrogate.

Wilkins will serve as president-elect of the Tennessee Academy of Science in 2025 and as president in 2026, and complete her service as past president in 2027.

Also attending the meeting was **Dr. Donald Shaw**, associate professor of biology, who was co-author on a poster presented by Lauren Milam, a senior biology major, and Xavier Jimenez, a

senior double-major in biology and chemistry, that won first place in the Science and Math Teaching and History of Science section, for their poster titled “Remote versus on-site exams on students’ performance and anxiety in university science courses.”

Wilkins was co-author on a poster presented by LMU undergraduate research student Ashlyn Walker and co-authored by Dr. Barbara Shock of LMU titled “Avian malarial prevalence in Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) from a winter mortality event in western Tennessee and Kentucky.”



Wilkins



Shaw

## SPEAKER from PAGE 1

Comprehensive Guide for Urban School Development”) and “Strategies for Working With and Among Difficult People.” Williams has also led professional development workshops for educators, administrators and superintendents.

Dr. Yancy Freeman Sr., UT Martin chancellor, will preside over the two ceremonies and confer degrees. Dr. Bernie Savarese, UT System vice president for academic affairs, research and student success, will bring greetings and represent the UT System. A sign-language interpreter will provide services for the hearing-impaired during both commencement events.



**Memphis Overton High School Principal Dr. Reginald Williams Sr. will be the commencement speaker at the two Dec. 14 ceremonies being held at the Elam Center – one at 10 a.m. and one at 2 p.m.**

The 10 a.m. ceremony will include undergraduate and graduate-degree candidates

from the College of Agriculture and Applied Science, and the College of Business and Global

Affairs.

The 2 p.m. ceremony will also include undergraduate and graduate-degree candidates and feature graduates from the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences, the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Each ceremony will be livestreamed at [www.facebook.com/utmartin](http://www.facebook.com/utmartin) and [www.youtube.com/utmartin](http://www.youtube.com/utmartin).

The ceremonies will be archived on YouTube for later viewing.

Contact the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615 for additional information.



## Office suite named for former dean Alexander

Dr. Lynn Alexander, who served as dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts from 2010 until her retirement in 2023, became the namesake of the Lynn Alexander Departmental Office Suite on Dec. 3.

The office suite, located in Room 131 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building, houses the English faculty of the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages. Alexander had also served as the chair of the Department of English.

Dr. Jeffrey R. Bibbee, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, spoke at the unveiling of the name plaque to go over the office entrances. He spoke about a conversation he had with her as he was applying for the position.

“We were scheduled to talk for about 30 minutes (via Zoom),” he said. “We talked for two hours. In that conversation, she told me all about living in Martin, and she told me all about the college.”



Dr. Lynn Alexander (center), former dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts from 2010 to her retirement in 2023, was honored Dec. 3 as the namesake of the office suite in Room 131 of the Andy Holt Humanities Building. The suite houses English faculty from the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages. Shown with Alexander are Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee (left), dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, and UTM Chancellor Yancy Freeman Sr.

Speaking directly to Alexander, he added, “But what came through in that conversation was the excitement you had every time you talked about students, the admiration you had for the faculty, the appreciation you had for people and their work and their effort and the things that they did,

the love that you had for Martin and this community and this campus.”

Alexander taught at UT Martin for 34 years in a diverse range of classes, and Chancellor Yancy Freeman said it was her passion for literature and unwavering dedication to sharing knowledge that inspired

the many students in her classes.

Alexander represented UT Martin on the University of Tennessee Foundation Board, and in 2018, she was elected to chair the Humanities Tennessee Board of Directors, serving a two-year term in that position.

This article can be seen in its entirety at [news.utm.edu](https://news.utm.edu).

## Paul Meek Library hosts Escape the PML Express

Thirteen teams of participants embarked on an adventure through the Paul Meek Library's Escape the PML Express escape room Dec. 2, where they navigated a series of intricate clues and puzzles to uncover a hidden piece of UTM history and locate a missing archivist. Shown are members of the winning team (l-r) Eliza Bricker, a first-year veterinary science and technology major from Adamsville; Jacob Callender, a first-year music major from Clarksville, Kevon Finch, a sophomore music major from Huntingdon, Colton Owens, a first-year chemistry major from Dyersburg, and Dylan Daniels, a sophomore computer science major from Dyersburg.



# LaDue to speak on corporate control of media

The UT Martin Research Series moves off-campus to consider corporate control of American media sources with “Molding Minds: Media, Money and Manipulation.”

The public event, set for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at the Martin Public Library, will feature **Dr. John LaDue**, the information literacy librarian at UT Martin.

“Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one,” he said, quoting A.J. Liebling, a New Yorker columnist describing newspaper consolidation more than 60 years ago.

Since then, media



LaDue

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,” he said.

In his role as information literacy librarian at UT Martin, LaDue teaches research skills and helps students to evaluate information sources in their context.

LaDue was previously employed at the University of Pittsburgh, where he spent 15 years developing web-based tools for health science education.

While at Pitt, he earned a master’s degree in library and information science and a doctorate in education.

LaDue is working on a graduate certificate in online

teaching and learning. He has been studying information and media literacy for more than 20 years.

The event is co-sponsored by the Martin Public Library, the Friends of the Martin Public Library, UT Martin’s Division of Academic Affairs, and the Paul Meek Library.

The program is open to the public and will be held at the Martin Public Library’s downtown location at 410 S. Lindell St. in Martin.

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

## McDonough, Nordberg serve on UT Press Editorial Board

**Dr. Dan McDonough**, professor of history, and **Dr. Erik Nordberg**, dean of the Paul Meek Library, serve on the 15-member University of Tennessee Press Editorial Board.

Board members are appointed by the University Libraries dean in consultation with the director of the UT Press for three-year terms, renewable once to a maximum term of continuous service of six years.

Members are typically faculty members from one of the UT campuses. By virtue of their knowledge of scholarship in their respective fields and their advisory responsibilities to the imprint of the press, members of the board have three obligations: to assist the press director and



McDonough

staff in the acquisition and evaluation of manuscripts; to ensure that all publications of the press meet the standards of scholarship, thought, judgment and taste appropriate to a major university and research institution; and to advise the press on the overall direction of



Nordberg

the publishing program.

The tasks of editorial board members include supplying the staff of the press with names of qualified referees for manuscripts, assisting in the evaluation of referees’ reports, serving as manuscript referees themselves and recommending

by vote the publication of all projects presented to them by the director and acquisitions editors.

The board may approve the publication of series provided that the ultimate authority for continued publication remains with the press, including the right of periodic review.

In addition, board members are strongly encouraged to act as liaisons between the press and scholars doing particularly promising work and to act as advocates for the press locally, nationally and globally.

Each board member potentially reads three or more books per year.

(UT Press director Katie Hannah provided information for this article.)

**Submit a YoUTM or question  
to [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu)!**



## Showing support for veterans

Anita Cannedy, director of the UT Martin Jackson Center, is pictured Nov. 23 with Kristin Henning, the reigning Miss Tennessee Teen Volunteer, at the West Tennessee Veterans Coalition "Salute to Our Veterans" Military Ball. The event is the primary fundraiser for the Veterans in Crisis Fund and was held at Madison Downs in Jackson. Kristin is a UT Martin freshman political science student who participates in ROTC and is a member of the Tennessee National Guard. She will next compete in March 2025 in Jackson for the Miss Teen Volunteer America title.



### Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

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.

Thursday, Jan. 2

- \*Men's basketball vs. Little Rock, 7:30 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.



## Eine kleine jazzmusik



Nothing to do with the 1996 movie of the same name, but just what the headline says: "A little bit of jazz." The UTM Jazz Concert was held Dec. 6 in the Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Theatre in the Fine Arts Building and featured the UTM Small Jazz Group and the UTM Big Band (shown). The bands were under the direction of Dr. Kurt Gorman, director of music.



# Skyhawk football season comes to end



The UT Martin Skyhawks football season came to an end Dec. 7, as UTM fell at No. 1 Montana State 49-17 in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision playoffs. The Skyhawks beat No. 16 New Hampshire 41-10 on Nov. 30 in the first round of the playoffs, its second-ever playoff victory as a member of NCAA Division I. The Skyhawks finished the 2024 season with a record of 9-5, 6-2 in the Big South-Ohio Valley Conference Football Association. This season marked the fourth straight year for UTM to claim at least a share of a conference championship. In 2021, UTM won the OVC title outright and shared first place in the OVC in 2022. In 2023, the Skyhawks were co-champs of the Big South-OVC, and repeated that feat this season. (Above photo) Senior wide receiver Trevonte Rucker (1) follows the block provided by senior running back Patrick Smith (2). (Photo at right) Senior quarterback Kinkead Dent (8) speaks with UTM head coach Jason Simpson on the sideline. (Photos courtesy of UTM Sports Information)





# Office of the Chancellor hosts holiday open house



UT Martin held its annual holiday open house Dec. 3 in the Russell Duncan Ballroom in the Boling University Center. Faculty and staff were invited to take part in a meal, collect ornaments and enjoy fellowship and fun with others from around the university. Shown at the holiday open house are members of the open house host, the Office of the Chancellor, including (l-r) Dr. Jamie Mantooh, executive director; Judy Sandefer, executive assistant; first lady Rafielle Freeman; Chancellor Yancy Freeman Sr.; Amy Bates, administrative coordinator for public occasions; and Jake Bynum, chief of staff.

## You Tell Me

• **Question** – When is the renovation on the Hall-Moody Administration Building scheduled to end, and what offices will be located within once it reopens?

• **Answer** – Every office that came out of the Hall-Moody Administration Building in 2023 that are currently housed in the Joseph E. Johnson Engineering and Physical Sciences Building and the Andy Holt Humanities Building will come back. The offices of Finance and Administration and Graduate Admissions will come back (they are currently in Clement Hall South on the fourth floor). The offices of Student Affairs and Access and Engagement that are in the Boling University Center will go back to the Hall-Moody Administration Building. In short, only the One Stop Shop and the Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development are offices that will not go back that were previously housed in the administration building. The original project is still scheduled to be completed this spring, and it is hoped that the second phase follows right behind it, such that the move back can happen in fall 2025. However, until there is an accepted bid from a contractor, a more detailed schedule will not be known.

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



# Chancellor Emeritus Smith named to THEC



Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee appointed UT Martin Chancellor Emeritus Bob Smith to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) in early November. He previously served as the commission’s interim executive director. According to a THEC-Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation news release, Smith will play a pivotal role as a commission member in advising on critical policy decisions and initiatives that support students, Tennesseans and the Tennessee higher education system. He attended his first THEC commission meeting Nov. 7 in his new role. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission was created in 1967 by the Tennessee General Assembly. The commission develops, implements and evaluates postsecondary education policies and programs in Tennessee while coordinating the state’s systems of higher education. Smith served 19 months as UT Martin interim chancellor starting in 2015 until early 2017, when Dr. Keith Carver became university chancellor. The UT Board of Trustees then retroactively named Smith the university’s 10th chancellor in March 2017 and conferred on him the title of chancellor emeritus.

## Campus Calendar

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| <p><b>Thursday, Dec. 12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Santa’s Village, 6-9 p.m., Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.</li> </ul> <p><b>Friday, Dec. 13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Santa’s Village, 6-9 p.m., Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.</li> </ul> <p><b>Saturday, Dec. 14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commencement exercises, 10 a.m., College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.</li> <li>• Commencement exercises, 2 p.m., College of Education, Health and</li> </ul> | <p>Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, and College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Santa’s Village, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sunday, Dec. 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Santa’s Village, 1-5 p.m., Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.</li> </ul> |
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*Events are subject to cancellation; dates, times and sites are subject to change.*



**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

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at [news.utm.edu](https://news.utm.edu)!**

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