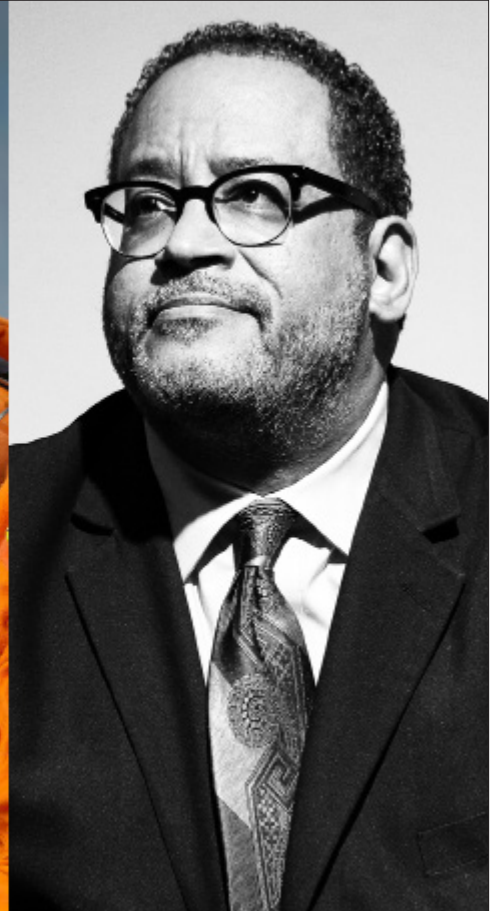


addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Jan. 21, 2025



Guest speakers at this year's Civil Rights Conference include (l-r) Charlayne Hunter-Gault (Feb. 4), José Hernández (Feb. 11) and Michael Eric Dyson (Feb. 17). The month-long Civil Rights Conference gets underway on Feb. 3 with "CRC: From Then to Now," a panel discussion of previous conferences to be held at 6 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

25th annual Civil Rights Conference begins Feb. 3

The Civil Rights Conference at UT Martin marks its 25th year of providing notable guest speakers, panels and activities promoting civil rights and equality.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Strength, Courage and Wisdom: Lessons for the Journey Toward Justice."

Dr. Henri Giles, assistant professor of African American studies, is the coordinator for this annual event. She said that for the university to host this event for a quarter-century says a lot.

"For it to have lasted 25 years says something about the dedication of this university to these types of issues," she said. "It has certainly changed over the years, but

it has kept its objective and main focus: to enlighten people and inform people about different issues that deal with civil rights, equity and justice."

Giles added that UT Martin is the only university in the United States to dedicate a month to a civil rights conference.

"There are certainly many other universities that have civil rights events or programs or maybe even conferences, but they don't go on for a month," she said. "That's one of the things that we are proud of, that we can say that we have this very important conference that brings in voices from all over the country. It is a conference that touches on issues that impact our world

today."

This year's conference features the following guest speakers:

- Charlayne Hunter-Gault, a journalist, activist and foreign correspondent who, with Hamilton Holmes, was the first African-American student to attend the University of Georgia in 1961.

- José Hernández, a current regent for the University of California who worked with farmworkers as a child and became an astronaut, serving as a mission specialist onboard the Space Shuttle Discovery in 2009.

- Michael Eric Dyson, a social justice

Continued on PAGE 5

UTM Research Series begins Jan. 29

The spring 2025 UTM Research Series will feature five members of the UT Martin faculty discussing individual areas of research.

According to Dr. Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, the UTM Research Series is held each semester and began in 2021, marking its fourth year this year.

“It is a program that was designed to highlight faculty research,” Nordberg said. “The whole idea of the Research Series is that a lot of people generally think of UT Martin as a teaching college. While that is true, every one of our faculty members, as part of their assignment, is expected to do research.”

“Part of the faculty members’ review for tenure and promotion is that, in addition to their teaching or their service

as a library faculty member, they participate in research, whether that is publication, conference proceedings or creative work. The Research Series came out of this desire to highlight that work, which often isn’t seen.”

The schedule of programs for this semester is:

- Dr. Jack Grubaugh, professor of biology, 4 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 29, Paul Meek Library: “Beetles, Bones and Bad Moths: Skyhawk Undergraduate Research and Internships in Entomology.”
- Dr. Ashley Kilburn, professor of marketing, 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20, online only: “E-Service Quality in Online Higher Education.”
- Dr. John Glass, director of Honors Programs, 4 p.m., Thursday, March 6, Paul Meek Library: “Research and the UTM Scholars.”
- Dr. Henri Giles, assistant



Grubaugh

professor of African American studies. 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 15, Paul Meek Library: “Restriction and Resistance: Examining Black Freedom in Haywood County.”

- Dr. Derrick Shepard, assistant professor of counseling, 4 p.m., Thursday, May 8, Martin Public Library: “Privilege, Power and Differences: How Social Class is All Around Us.”

Streaming will be provided at all but the final program in the series.

Grubaugh will open the UTM Research Series for spring 2025. A presentation and reception in his honor will begin at 4 p.m. on Jan. 29 in the Paul Meek Library. The livestream feed of his program can be found [here](#).

Grubaugh’s presentation, “Beetles, Bones and Bad Moths: Skyhawk Undergraduate Research and Internships in Entomology,” will highlight his extensive research including entomological work with hide beetles (also known as flesh-

eating beetles).

UTM engages many students in laboratory work, field research and internships, and Grubaugh will highlight current cooperative programs underway in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources and the Department of Biological Sciences.

Grubaugh joined the faculty of biological sciences in 2010 and served as departmental chair for five years. In addition to his teaching, scholarship and service to the university, he has received grant funding from several federal, state and municipal agencies, which he has applied toward research.

Grubaugh has also served as a consultant on projects to record, assess, and improve natural resources and indigenous wildlife throughout the Mississippi and Tennessee river valleys.

A recording will be available for later playback. A reception with light refreshments will follow and attendees can view an exhibit highlighting Grubaugh’s work.

Parking for the reception will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off Mount Pelia Road. Parking permits are available online at <https://tinyurl.com/MeekParking>.

For more information, contact Nordberg at 731-881-7070.

Former Stanton mayor to be guest speaker

The Department of Political Science and Global Studies in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts will host Dr. Allan Sterbinsky, former mayor of Stanton – the site of Ford’s BlueOval City – at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, in Room 416 Holt Humanities Building.

Students and faculty interested in learning more about rural development and innovation are encouraged to attend this talk.

Center for Teaching and Learning to host open house

The Center for Teaching and Learning is hosting an open house from noon to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 22, in Room 215 of the Paul Meek Library.

People are invited to drop by at their convenience and enjoy coffee and cookies with the center’s staff and learn about how the CTL supports teaching goals.

The center will host its first workshop, “Adapting to AI: A

Professor’s Toolkit,” at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, at Room 215 of the Paul Meek Library.

Online registration is now open at tinyurl.com/xutmctl.

Due to the interactive nature of the event, the workshop is limited to 25 attendees.

Those registering after that will be added to a wait list and automatically signed up for the next workshop on this topic.

**Submit a YoUTM
or question
to addenda@utm.edu!**

UTM Advisory Board to meet Jan. 24

The UT Martin Advisory Board will meet for its spring meeting at 1 p.m., Friday, Jan. 24, in Room 206AB of the Ed and Carolyn Boling University Center.

The meeting is open to the public and available for viewing via livestream at <http://www.utm.edu/abmeeting>. The video of the full meeting will be archived for later viewing.

Agenda items include:

- Call to order and roll call
- Opening remarks: Chairman Art Sparks and Chancellor Yancy Freeman
- Approval of minutes
- 2025 legislative outlook: Tim Sigler, vice president, UT Government Relations, Advocacy and Economic Development
 - Capital projects update: Petra McPhearson, senior vice chancellor for finance and administration
 - Athletics update: Kurt McGuffin, vice chancellor for athletics
 - Enrollment and retention update: Destin Tucker, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management, and Dr. Brad Baumgardner, director of retention
- Approval of 2025-30 UT Martin Strategic Plan
- Approval of 2026 Advisory Board meeting schedule
- Comments by Chancellor Yancy Freeman



UTM Advisory Board Chairman Art Sparks listens during a presentation at the UTM Advisory Board meeting on Sept. 24. The board will next meet at 1 p.m., Jan. 24, in Room 206AB of the Boling University Center.

Freeman

- Closing remarks by Chairman Art Sparks.

The agenda and associated meeting materials are available at www.utm.edu/advisoryboard or by contacting Bud Grimes, Office of University Relations, at rgrimes@utm.edu or call 731-881-7615.

Anyone with a disability or otherwise needing assistance related to this meeting can contact Grimes to request auxiliary aids or services needed to facilitate attendance.

Contact can be made in person, by writing, email, telephone or otherwise and should be received no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 22.

Teaching farm to sell boxes of chicken McNuggets

The UT Martin Teaching and Demonstration Farm is offering chicken McNuggets in 20-pound boxes.

The chickens were raised on the UTM farm and are the result of its partnership with Tyson Foods in Union City.

There are a limited number of boxes available on a first come, first served basis.

Boxes are \$30 each with a limit of five per person.

Orders may only be made in person using the provided order form, which can be obtained in Kim Jackson's office at 250 Brehm Hall. Payment is due at


the time of order.

Payment in the form of cash or check made out to UTM is due in person to Jackson in 250 Brehm Hall by 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7.




Pickup will be from 4 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11, in the gravel RV parking lot behind the football stadium lot.

Pickup must be done in person. Boxes not picked up will be discarded, and no refund given.

To purchase a box, fill out the order form and bring it with payment to Jackson's office.



**"BEETLES, BONES, AND BAD MOTHS:
SKYHAWK UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIPS IN
ENTOMOLOGY"**

Dr. Jack Grubaugh will highlight his extensive research including entomological work with hide beetles (also known as flesh-eating beetles). UTM engages many students in laboratory work, field research, and internships, and this event will highlight cooperative programs underway in the Departments of Agriculture and Biological Sciences.

Dr. Jack Grubaugh
Professor, Biological Sciences

Wednesday, January 29th @ 4:00 pm
Paul Meek Library North Windows

FEATURED FACULTY SCHOLAR

Working Women's Conference set for Feb. 7

The WestStar Leadership Program will host the 27th annual Working Women's Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 7, in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom.

The registration fee is \$75, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

This year's conference theme is "Stepping Out of the Box: Redefining Womanhood."

This Week's Skyhawk Home Events

Saturday, Jan. 25

- *Women's basketball vs. Tennessee Tech, 1 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- *Men's basketball vs. Tennessee Tech, 3:30 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.



Inspired by the movie "Barbie," this year's conference will focus on inspiring participants to break the mold, embrace their strengths and redefine womanhood in their own unique way.

Jahnae Johnson, the WestStar Leadership Development program manager, said that the recent "Barbie" movie helped empower women from all walks of life.

During the registration process, participants submit the type of Barbie they will be; this can be based on their career, hobbies or interests.

"It's just a fun way to show that all these women have different interests," Johnson said. "We are all coming together for the same purpose of uplifting other women, learning the definition of true women empowerment and redefining womanhood."

The keynote speaker for this year's conference is Teresa Chasteen-Dunn, the president and CEO of WIN Learning. Chasteen-Dunn has an interesting story that will inspire all the attendees.

Additional conference speakers include Rafielle Freeman, the wife of Chancellor Yancy Freeman; Amber Wells, Mrs. Weakley County, a firefighter and an emergency medical technician for the city of Martin; and Dr. Lisa Piercey, a managing partner of Tristela



Participants are shown enjoying last year's WestStar Leadership Program Working Women's Conference. This year's conference will be held Feb. 7 and will feature guest speaker Teresa Chasteen-Dunn, the president and CEO of WIN Learning.

Capital Partners.

Tina Prescott, CEO of West Tennessee Development District; Melinda Goode, executive director of Northwest Tennessee Development District; Dr. Henrietta Giles, assistant professor of African American studies; and Mary L. Wagner, a Tennessee Supreme Court justice, will participate in a panel discussing how women can break the "glass ceiling."

"I think everyone walks away feeling very empowered and with the correct tools they need to redefine womanhood in their own unique way," Johnson said. "They also leave with a

new network of women, which can positively impact their lives, both professionally and personally.

"They also feel at peace, understanding that there are so many other women that they can resonate with, who go through the same struggles that they do, and I think that can be very comforting."

To register for the conference, visit <http://www.utm.edu/wwc2025>. The registration deadline is Friday, Jan. 31.

For additional information, contact Jahnae Johnson at 731-881-7787 or jjohn552@utm.edu.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – What are the duties of building managers, and where can the most current listing of UT Martin building managers be found?

• **Answer** – The recently updated building managers list is on the [Environmental Health and Safety webpage](#). Charlie Jahr is the university's safety and emergency management coordinator, and he recently communicated in a campuswide email that the university designates a building manager for each campus building. The building manager contact list can help you contact your building manager, whose responsibilities include assisting with building safety, communication, facility fee requests and signage. As Charlie noted in his message, anyone can report a building concern to a building manager.

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

CIVIL RIGHTS from PAGE 1

activist and seven-time New York Times bestselling author. He has written 25 books and taught at some of the nation’s most distinguished universities. Also a Baptist minister, Dyson is a professor in the College of Arts and Science and in the Divinity School at Vanderbilt University. He has been a commentator for National Public Radio, MSNBC and CNN, and was a speaker in 2018 at the funeral for Aretha Franklin.

Giles said the speakers bring a wide variety of backgrounds and stories to the Civil Rights Conference.

“The hope is that with these different backgrounds that it will spark the interest of our students in social justice or the law,” she said. “There might be a STEM (science-technology-engineering-mathematics) student wanting to go into space or someone with the hope of becoming a writer or an academic.”

Giles added that some events came from ideas submitted by UT Martin students, including some of the panel discussions.

“I am so happy to have their involvement,” she said. “One of those events is called ‘Behind the Scenes: Black Students Navigating a PWI campus.’ That will be a panel of students and alumni talking about some of the challenges and some of the benefits of attending a predominantly white institution.”

Giles said she would define a predominantly white institution (PWI) as one that is not recognized as a historically Black college or university, which is identified by that abbreviation, HBCU.

The art exhibition held Feb.

10-28 features work by UTM students that will be showcased in the hallway near the Nunnelly Welcome Center in the Boling University Center. An awards ceremony for the exhibition will be held Wednesday, Feb. 19.

“Their works will be based on the conference theme, which is ‘Strength, Courage and Wisdom: Lessons for the Journey Toward Justice,’” Giles said.

The schedule of events for the 2025 Civil Rights Conference includes:

- CRC: From Then to Now, a panel discussion with original and subsequent UTM Civil Rights Conference organizers to discuss the purpose and mission of the event; 6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 3, Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.

- Charlayne Hunter-Gault, guest speaker; 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 4, Watkins Auditorium.

- Financial Literacy Workshop; 4 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5, Room 206 Boling University Center.

- “A Million Miles Away,” a screening of the 2023 film about the life of guest speaker José Hernández; 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 9, Watkins Auditorium.

- Strength, Courage and Wisdom art exhibition; artwork created by students in the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts; Monday, Feb. 10, Boling University Center Welcome Center hallway.

- Night of Dance; 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 10, Watkins Auditorium.

- José Hernández, guest speaker, 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11, Watkins Auditorium.

- “Behind the Scenes: Black Students Navigating a PWI Campus;” 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 13, Watkins Auditorium.



Giles

Student-led session highlighting the benefits and challenges of attending a predominantly white institution.

- Michael Eric Dyson, guest speaker; 6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 17, Watkins Auditorium.

- “International Studies: Global Lessons for Understanding Each Other;” 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19. UTM scholars discuss lessons learned about justice and equity

- Student art awards, Strength, Courage and Wisdom art exhibition; 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19, Watkins Auditorium.

- Weakley County Reconciliation Project: Honest Conversations; 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20, Room 206 Boling University Center.

- “Minorities in Meteorology;” 6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 24, Room 111 Boling University Center, student-led discussion of career expectations and challenges for people of color in meteorology.

- “Assessing the Changes at Hand;” 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, Watkins Auditorium, panel discussion on cultural and social shifts for Americans.

All events are free and open to the public.

This story can be seen in its entirety at news.utm.edu.

Campus Calendar

Friday, Jan. 24

- UTM Advisory Board meeting, 1 p.m., 206 Boling University Center.

Saturday, Jan. 25

- Honor Band, 1-5 p.m., Harriet Fulton Performing Arts Center, Fine Arts Building.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

- WestStar ALStar

conference, 8:30 a.m., Boling University Center.

Friday, Feb. 7

- WestStar Working Women’s Conference, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Duncan Ballroom, Boling University Center.

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

Read more UT Martin news at news.utm.edu!

addenda

Published weekly during the academic year and biweekly during the summer by UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238
 Randy Boyd – President, University of Tennessee System • Dr. Yancy Freeman Sr. – UTM Chancellor • David Snow – Addenda Editor
 UT Martin is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA employer. E05-0415-00-001-25