

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Feb. 10, 2025



UT Martin first lady Rafielle Freeman speaks to those in attendance at the WestStar Leadership Program's 27th annual Working Women's Conference, held Feb. 7 in the Duncan Ballroom at the Boling University Center. The theme of this year's conference was "Stepping Out of the Box: Redefining Womanhood," and the keynote speaker was Teresa Chasteen-Dunn, the president and chief executive officer of WIN Learning, an organization that helps school districts, community colleges, adult education programs, workforce development and business and industry organizations TO ensure that all learners and job seekers have the skills to be successful in their path to career readiness.

Working Women's Conference held Feb. 7

UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program hosted the 27th annual Working Women's Conference Feb. 7 in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom.

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

Inspired by the movie "Barbie," this year's conference focused 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

during the registration process, participants submitted the type of Barbie they wanted to be, based on their career, hobbies or interests.

The keynote speaker for this year's conference was Teresa Chasteen-Dunn, the president and CEO of WIN Learning.

Additional conference speakers included 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 Capital Partners.

Tina Prescott, CEO of West Tennessee Healthcare; 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, participated in a panel discussing how women can break the "glass ceiling."

For additional information about the Working Women's Conference or other WestStar programs, contact Jahnae Johnson at 731-881-7787 or jjohn552@utm.edu.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

UT System to offer wellness series to faculty, staff, students

The University of Tennessee System is launching the “Well Informed: UT System Hybrid Wellness Series” on Tuesday, March 4, with its first session focused on the impact of opioids on our campuses and how faculty, staff and students can work together to prevent substance misuse and support campus well-being.

Programs in the series will be presented twice a year.

The inaugural March 4 event features

a keynote from Dr. Stephen Loyd, the chief medical officer at the Cedar Recover addiction treatment center with 13 facilities throughout Tennessee, insights from UT System President Randy Boyd and interactive Narcan training. This event is a valuable opportunity to learn life-saving skills and gain important resources.

Faculty, staff and students play a crucial role in fostering a safe and informed campus environment – this session will

provide valuable knowledge and resources to help support students and colleagues. Participants can take part in person at UT Chattanooga, live online or register to watch later.

Registration for this session – open to faculty and staff only – ends on Friday, Feb. 21. People can register and find more information [here](#).

More information about Cedar Recovery can be found at cedarrecovery.com.

Women in STEM to have strawberry-themed meeting

Dr. Violet Bumah, assistant professor of chemistry, and senior chemistry major DeJa Graves will host a Women in STEM meeting at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, in Room 310 of the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building.

To celebrate the Valentine’s Day holiday, organizers are embracing a strawberry theme with a scientific twist by extracting strawberry DNA.

The public is invited to join this hands-on event. There will be snacks, science and great



Bumah

company.

Women in STEM is a diverse group of students, faculty and staff ~ and not only women.



Dr. John LaDue, assistant professor of library science, will present “Whitewashing Dr. King’s Legacy” at 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17, in Room 152 of the Paul Meek Library.

“In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. described what he saw as the three evils of society: racism, poverty and militarism,” LaDue stated in an email. “Dr. King not only described these evils, but he actively organized against them.

“However, when Dr. King is taught in schools, portrayed in film, or talked about by politicians, the focus is nearly always just his work on racism. By omitting his work on



LaDue

economic injustice, as well as his anti-war stance, we are left with an incomplete picture of a complicated man and time.”

The focus of the program will be discussion on how and why this has happened.

Sarah Haig, chair of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, and Kyoko Hammond, lecturer of Japanese in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, took a group of students to an experiential learning opportunity on Jan. 30.

An exhibit entitled “Journey Through Japan: Myths to

Manga” was on display at the Frist Museum in Nashville.

The exhibit explores the art and culture of Japan through time.

Seventeen students participated in the trip as a way to further their understanding of Japanese art and culture.

This event was sponsored by the departments of both aculty members.

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

Journalist, activist Hunter-Gault speaks at CRC



Charlayne Hunter-Gault, a CNN reporter based in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 1999 to 2005, featured correspondent on The PBS News Hour from 2016 to 2020 and civil rights activist, spoke Feb. 3 about her experiences as part of the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference. She is one of three guest speakers scheduled for the month-long conference, which celebrates Black History Month with contemporary speakers and programs about civil rights issues. Hunter-Gault and Hamilton Holmes were the first African-American students to be admitted to the University of Georgia. That university's academics building is named for Holmes and her.



Dr. David Coffey, chair of the Department of History and Philosophy, is shown holding a plaque of appreciation for his support of the UT Martin Civil Rights Conference and to commemorate the 25th annual conference. Shown at the plaque presentation are (front row, l-r) CRC coordinator Dr. Henri Giles; Coffey; Dr. David Barber, professor of history; (back row, l-r) Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls, retired professor of history; Dr. Henry H. Parker, retired professor of philosophy; and Weakley County Sessions Judge Thomas Moore. Carls, Parker and Moore each received a plaque honoring them for playing a strong role in the early growth and development of the Civil Rights Conference. The plaques were presented by Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Coffey moderated the Feb. 3 panel discussion "CRC: Then and Now," and Carls, Moore, Barber and Parker each served as panelists talking about earlier conferences and memorable guests.

Second week of CRC opens art exhibition

The 25th annual Civil Rights Conference continues its month-long schedule with its second week, starting Monday, Feb. 10.

The UTM Civil Rights Conference is a means of celebrating Black History Month by bringing notable guest speakers and performers and highlighting campus talent in a public forum. In all, 13 events were scheduled for this year's conference.

UT Martin is the only university in the United States to hold a month-long civil rights conference.

Guest speaker José Hernández came from working with farmworkers as a child to becoming an engineer and an

astronaut.

Hernández will speak at 6 p.m., Feb. 11, in Watkins Auditorium. He will be sharing his journey with the audience.

The "Strength, Courage and Wisdom" art exhibition – named for the theme of the Civil Rights Conference – started on Feb. 10 and continues through Feb. 28. It will be on display in the Nunnely Welcome Center hallway in the Boling University Center. This exhibition will feature the artwork of students in the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

A student-led session called "Behind the Scenes: Black Students Navigating a PWI Campus" will be held at 6 p.m., Feb. 13, in Room 206 in the Boling University Center.



Hernández

This session will highlight the benefits and challenges of attending a predominantly white institution.

All programs are free and open to the public.

For more information about the Civil Rights Conference, visit www.utm.edu/visit-utmartin/civil-rights.php.

Fullington completes 12-week police course

The UT Martin Department of Public Safety announced that **Officer Deanna Fullington** has successfully completed the Basic Police School at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy.

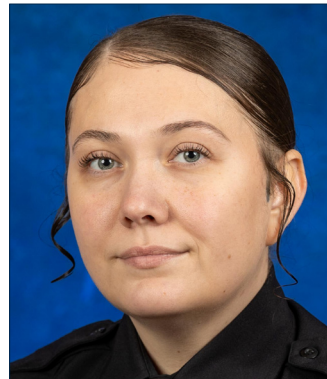
Fullington joined the Department of Public Safety in April 2024, having previously worked in corrections in Madison County. She also previously worked as a hospice nurse, earning a licensed professional nurse certification from West Tennessee Business College.

The 12-week Basic Police School course, known for its rigorous academic and physical demands, is designed to provide comprehensive training for law enforcement officers.

Fullington is originally from Jackson and now lives in Martin.

Upon completion, Fullington passed the POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) test, earning her certification as a police officer in the state of Tennessee.

Fullington's achievement marks a significant milestone in her career and further



Fullington

strengthens the UTM Department of Public Safety's commitment to providing a high standard of service to the campus community.

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

Friday, Feb. 14

- Softball vs. Western Michigan (Skyhawk Classic), 3:30 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field.

Saturday, Feb. 15

- Softball vs. DePaul (Skyhawk Classic), 6 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field.

Sunday, Feb. 16

- Softball vs. DePaul (Skyhawk Classic), 12:30 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field.
- Softball vs. Murray State (Skyhawk Classic), 3:30 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

- *Women's basketball vs. Tennessee State, 5:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- *Men's basketball vs. Tennessee State, 7:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 19

- Baseball vs. Murray State, 3 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

Friday, Feb. 21

- Equestrian vs. Delaware State, 9 a.m., Ned McWhirter Agricultural Complex.

* - 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.



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

Honor Choir program held on campus



The annual Honor Choir program coordinated by Dr. Mark Statler, assistant professor of music, took place at UT Martin on Feb. 1. Dozens of students from area high schools took part in the program, a prestigious event that attracts the best vocal talent in the region.

Campus Calendar

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| Tuesday, Feb. 11 | Boling University Center. |
| • Civil Rights Conference: José Hernández, 6 p.m., Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center. | Friday, Feb. 14 |
| Wednesday, Feb. 12 | • Women in STEM, 4 p.m., Room 310 Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building. |
| • Health fair, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Duncan Ballroom, Boling University Center. | Monday, Feb. 17 |
| Thursday, Feb. 13 | • Civil Rights Conference: Michael Eric Dyson, 6 p.m., Watkins Auditorium. |
| • Civil Rights Conference: “Behind the Scenes: Black Students Navigating a PWI Campus,” 6 p.m., Room 206 | <i>Events are subject to cancellation; dates, times and sites are subject to change.</i> |

February 2025						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	

You Tell Me

- **Question** – Paul Hug Drive runs adjacent to Hardy Graham Stadium. Who was Paul Hug?
- **Answer** – The street name memorializes Paul Hug, head UT Junior College football coach from 1939 to 1941 and in 1946 following the end of World War II and the return of veterans to the campus. He was assisted by James C. Henson, for whom J.C. Henson Drive, located between the Elam Center and Skyhawk Fieldhouse, is named. Hug, a Kingsport native, played for the Tennessee Vols football team from 1928 to 1930. A naming ceremony for these two drives, Derryberry Drive and Nick Denes Drive, was held Nov. 10, 1974. (Sources: Guide to UT Martin Facility Namings and Dedications, 2024 UT Football Media Guide, “The University of Tennessee at Martin: The First One Hundred Years” by Bob Carroll.)

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

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