

addenda



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

Employee Appreciation Brunch held March 4



The Office of the Chancellor Yancy Freeman hosted an Employee Appreciation Brunch March 4 in the lobby of the Russell Duncan Ballroom in the Boling University Center. The brunch was held in recognition of Employee Appreciation Day. (Right photo) Employees took advantage of the come-and-go format to stop by for some brunch and fellowship with their fellow employees.

Town-hall meeting for staff to be held March 12

Chancellor **Yancy Freeman** invites all UT Martin staff to take part in a town-hall meeting from 10 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, March 12, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

The town hall is specifically for exempt and non-exempt staff members.

“This will be a valuable opportunity to participate in meaningful discussions about our collective experiences and workplace environment,” Freeman said in an emailed announcement about the meeting.

During the session, the most recent

McLean Employee Engagement Survey administered to staff members will be reviewed and discussed.

“This survey has provided invaluable insights into areas where we excel, opportunities for growth and aspects that may need further attention,” Freeman stated in the announcement. “Your feedback is essential in helping us shape a more supportive, engaging, and thriving work environment for everyone.”

To ensure that all staff have access to the town-hall meeting, it will be live-streamed to

UT Martin’s six regional centers, allowing employees to participate in the town-hall meeting remotely.

“This Town Hall is more than just a presentation of results; it is an opportunity for open dialogue, shared perspectives and collaborative problem-solving,” Freeman stated in the announcement. “Together, we will explore ways to celebrate our successes, address challenges and enhance our workplace culture to ensure that each of you feels valued, supported, and empowered in the work you do.”

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Brittany Cole, assistant professor of finance, presented the research project, "Betting the Farm: Municipal Bond Market Uncertainty and Farm Bill Legislation," on Feb. 3 at the Southern Agriculture Economics Association annual meetings in Irving, Texas.

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, dean of graduate studies for the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, and **Dr. Tony Delmond**, associate professor of agricultural economics, are co-authors on the project.

The project studies the effect that farm bill legislation has on municipal bond market liquidity.

Rural areas are the areas most affected by the farm bills' uncertainty and rely heavily on municipal bond funding.

The project studies over 10 million municipal bond trading observations from 2014 to 2022 to document changes in liquidity in the municipal bond market around farm bill legislation.

The paper finds a lower market quality as measured by increased

volatility and increased trading costs when farm bill legislation and discussion occurs.

The reduced market quality is more pronounced for rural municipal bond issuers as well as for retail or small traders.

The study provides valuable implications for municipal bond market participants concerned with liquidity changes.

The research shows that rural investors and issuers often pay the price for uncertainty in the market, which is potentially a reflection of dealer power in the market.



House

Lt. Col. Bernard House, professor of military science and director of the ROTC battalions at UT Martin and Murray State, was one of four individuals to receive a 2025 Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Discovery Award during the awards gala March 8 at Discovery Park of America in Union City. The awards recognize personal and professional achievement.

House is a distinguished military graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and earned a master's degree at Webster University. A decorated U.S. Army officer, his career includes service in Germany, Korea, Iraq, Kosovo and Afghanistan. Among his military awards are the Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal.



Cole



Mehlhorn



Delmond

Yeung, Jean perform in Music by Women Festival



During the International Women's Day on March 8, Dr. Amy Yeung (right), professor of music, and Dr. Chan Mi Jean, lecturer of music, performed at the ninth annual Music by Women Festival hosted by Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi.

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

Freeman visits with campus ministries



Chancellor Yancy Freeman met Feb. 25 with campus ministers for a breakfast in the Chancellors’ Conference Room. Pictured are (front row, l-r) Megan Lewter, assistant director of the Wesley Foundation; Mollie June Miller, director and minister of the Wesley Foundation; Stacy Freed, campus minister from the Skyhawk Catholic Campus Ministry; (back row, l-r) Crockett Walter, teaching pastor from Mission Church; Freeman; and Deacon Rodney Freed, campus minister from the Skyhawk Catholic Campus Ministry. Stacy and Rodney Freed are also faculty members in the Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication.

Next deadline for ORSP funding is May 1

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) provides funding for internal awards designed to assist faculty at the UT Martin with development activities.

The Faculty Development Grant Program provides three rounds of funding annually for regular, full-time faculty.

The next application deadline is Thursday, May 1. Available funding will dictate the number and amount of awards for each round.

The following changes have been made to the Faculty Development Grant Program

guidelines effective for the summer 2025 round of funding:

- The Conference Participation category has been renamed as the Conference Presentation category.
- Conference presentation will receive priority in funding over conference attendance.
- The evaluation section of the application has been removed from the categories of Professional Development, Conference Presentation and International Travel.

Applications must have all required elements, including the applicant’s curriculum vitae,

included in the application packet to be considered by the committee.

The Dynamic Form

application and program details are available on the [ORSP SharePoint site](#).

March 2025						
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Read more UT Martin news at news.utm.edu

UT Martin co-hosts Sigma Xi Symposium

UT Martin, in collaboration with Murray State University, hosted the annual Sigma Xi Research Symposium on March 8.

This interdisciplinary event took place in the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building and featured oral and poster presentations from a diverse range of disciplines, including agriculture, geosciences and natural resources, biological sciences, engineering and health and human

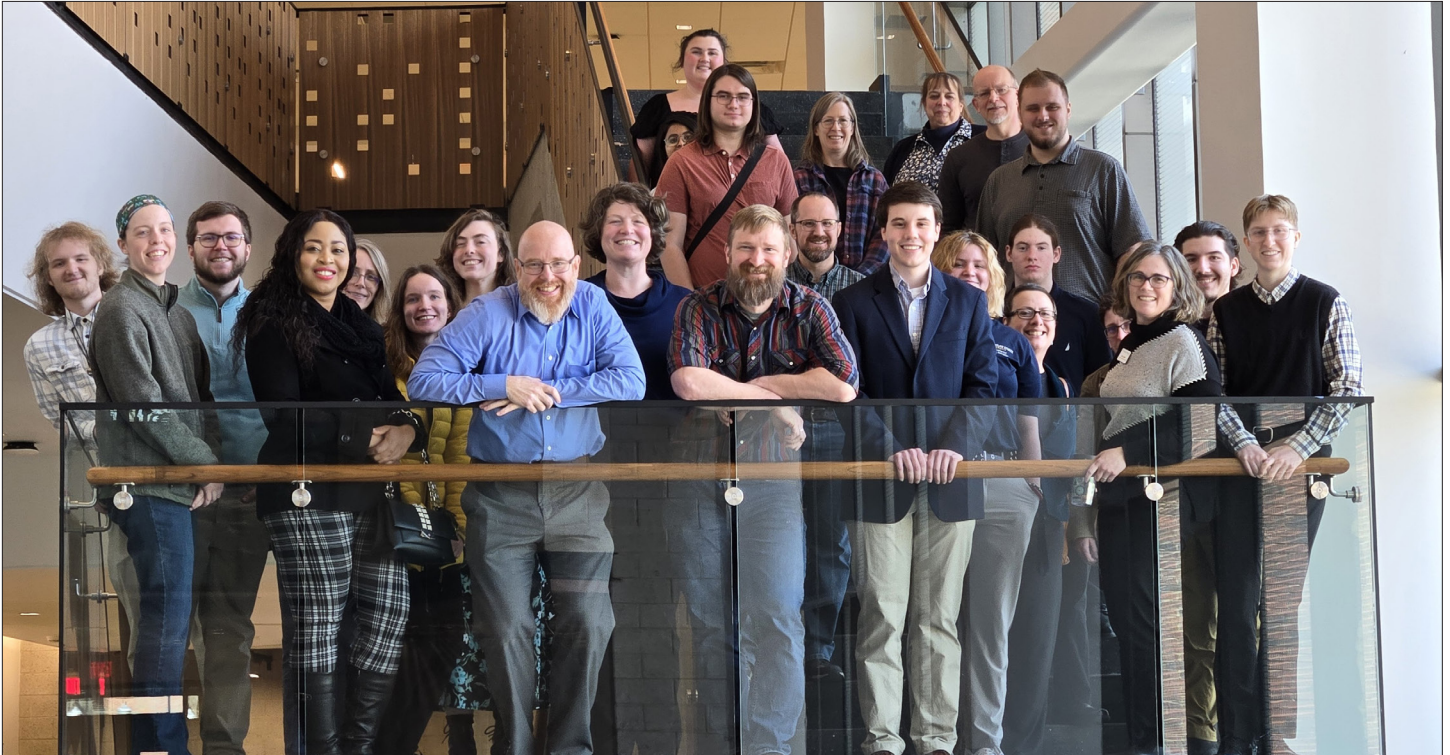
performance.

A total of 22 UT Martin faculty and students participated in the symposium, contributing to the exchange of research and ideas across multiple fields.

Sigma Xi is an international honor society for scientists and engineers, founded in 1886 at Cornell University. The organization is dedicated to recognizing scientific achievement, fostering collaboration across

disciplines, promoting public engagement with science, mentoring the next generation of researchers and upholding ethics, diversity and excellence in scientific inquiry.

The symposium provided a valuable opportunity for faculty and students to present their research, network with peers, and engage in meaningful discussions that advance scientific discovery and innovation.



UT Martin and Murray State University co-hosted the annual Sigma Xi Research Symposium on March 8 in UTM's Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building.. A total of 22 UT Martin faculty members and students participated in the symposium.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – Is UT Martin a land-grant university?

• **Answer** – No, UT Martin is not a land-grant institution, and this excerpt from a past Land Grant Report compiled by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and the Tennessee Student Assistance Commission offers a brief history: “The Morrill Land-Grant Act, introduced by Rep. Justin Morrill (Vermont) and passed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862, yielded an education-based solution to local labor market demands of the time. This act provides land and funds to establish universities focused on practical education teaching agriculture, military tactics, mechanic arts and classical studies. The newly established institutions were envisioned as an opportunity to provide working-class families the necessary training to enter more sustainable careers. In Tennessee, the 1862 Morrill Act established the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In 1890, the federal government passed the second Morrill Act. States with segregated land-grant institutions would be eligible to receive support for institutions serving only Black students. The 1890 Morrill Act bestowed land-grant status to Tennessee State University. A third Morrill Act, enacted in 1994, granted land-grant status to Native American Tribal Colleges. Tennessee has no tribal colleges and is, therefore, not a recipient of funds made available by the 1994 Morrill Act.” UT Martin is active in the Non-Land-Grant Agricultural and Renewable Resources Universities national organization. Dr. Todd Winters, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences dean, serves as the organization’s president.

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



Helping to set up umbrella stands across campus on March 8 were (l-r) Maggie Gateley, a senior history major from Bradford; Elise Collier, a graduate student studying higher education leadership from Brighton; Ashlyn Drewry, an MBA candidate from McKenzie; Taylor Harris, a senior health and human performance major from Jackson; Eli Scott, a senior veterinary science major from Medina; and Dalton Hibner, representing co-sponsor Sonic Drive-Ins. The students are all part of this year's cohort in the Ned Ray McWherter Institute.

Ned McWherter Institute students begin umbrella-share program on campus

Students in the senior cohort of the Ned Ray McWherter Institute at UT Martin created an umbrella-share program for the university.

Several umbrella stands stocked with umbrellas will be placed inside selected buildings across campus. If people need an umbrella and don't have one of their own, they can take one from the stand and then return it to a stand.

Steve Vantrease of the Ned Ray McWherter Institute said the eight umbrella stands will be placed in residence halls, the Boling University Center and selected academic buildings.

Four umbrella stands were placed Saturday, March 8, and the other four will be placed at a later date.

Eli Scott, a senior veterinary science and technology major from Medina, was one of the students who worked on the umbrella share project.

"A friend of mine talked about umbrellas, and I thought it would be a really good idea to have this umbrella-share project," he said. "From my own experience when I lived on campus, there would be many

days where I would just get out of bed, wouldn't check the weather and get to my classes, and then, it starts to rain, and there I am without an umbrella."

The project was created in the fall 2024 semester, but students had to wait for the umbrellas, stands and signage to arrive.

The share program is sponsored by the UTM Office of Housing and Sonic Drive-In.

Campus Calendar

Tuesday, March 11

- UTM Choirs Spring Choral Concert, 7:30 p.m., Harriet Fulton Theater, Fine Arts Building; free admission and open to the public.

Wednesday, March 12

- Town hall meeting, 10 a.m.-

noon, discussion of McLean Employee Engagement Survey, Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.

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

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

Saturday, March 15

- *Stunt vs. Central Arkansas, 11:15 a.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.
- *Softball vs. Lindenwood (dh), 2 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field.
- Stunt vs. Centenary, 3:15 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Sunday, March 16

- *Stunt vs. Missouri State, 11:15 a.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.
- *Softball vs. Lindenwood, noon, Bettye Giles Softball Field.
- *Stunt vs. Northern Kentucky, 3 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Wednesday, March 19

- Beach volleyball vs. North Alabama (dh), noon, Skyhawk Beach Volleyball Complex.

Friday, March 21

- *Beach volleyball vs. Eastern Illinois, 2 p.m., Skyhawk Beach Volleyball Complex.
- *Beach volleyball vs. Morehead State, 6 p.m., Skyhawk Beach Volleyball Complex.

* - conference competition

Full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com

Dates and times are subject to change.

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

addenda

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