

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | March 24, 2025

Welcome back to campus, Class of 1975!



Larry T. McGehee was the chancellor at UT Martin, Gerald R. Ford was the president of the United States, "The Godfather Part II" took home the Academy Award for Best Picture and disco was in its heyday when this group of graduates earned their diplomas as the Class of 1975. Several members of this class returned to campus March 21 to take part in the annual Golden Grads Tour to mark the 50th anniversary of their graduation. Above photo: Several class members gathered at the Nick and Cathy Dunagan Alumni Center to share memories. Left photo: The Golden Grads Tour included a visit to several campus sites, including the Graves Stables.

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Brendan O'Bryan, a senior veterinary science major from Murfreesboro, presented his University Scholars project, "All Costs (and Creatures) Great and Small: Price Sensitivity and Livestock Production," at the Southern Agriculture Economics Association annual meeting on Feb. 3.

Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science, and **Dr. Brittany Cole**, assistant professor of finance, served as faculty mentors on the project.

The project uses a livestock producers survey to gauge price



Roberts

sensitivity to veterinary care expenses.

Despite the increasing costs and scarcity of large-animal



Cole

service providers, livestock producers are not sensitive to veterinary care prices. Livestock producers frequently use

veterinary care, with 82% of respondents reporting they used a veterinarian in the most recent three months.

Only 4% of producers made a change of veterinarians due to rising costs, and only 17% admit skipping needed care due to cash constraints and prices.

Even though the livestock producers surveyed feel they are sensitive to herd health-care pricing, a majority admit to a willingness to pay whatever price veterinarians deems fair in emergency situations.

Natalie Perkins, lecturer of communications, and **Tammy Jo Stanford**, assistant director of success counseling in the Student Success Center, presented at the annual Region 3 National Academic Advising Association conference held March 5-7 in Memphis.

Perkins and Stanford collaborated to present an interactive and unique "game show" presentation titled "Let's Make Excuses (And Find Solutions!)." The premise of the presentation was to explore the

unique and sometimes unusual excuses that higher-education practitioners receive from students.

Excuses are still important information, and by meeting with students in person, asking leading and follow-up questions and building trust and rapport with students helps practitioners dig down to the root of the student's issue.

The objective was to bring awareness to uncommon issues as well as to explore resources that already exist at institutions.



Perkins

Audience members participated in the "game show" and added insight by sharing



Stanford

innovative resources from their own tool kits with their peers.



Smith

Dr. Clinton Smith, professor of special education and chair for educational studies, co-presented "Unseen Voices: The Media's Role in Shaping Disability Narratives" at the National Education Association's (NEA) annual Leadership Summit on March 8 in Detroit.

He also co-presented two sessions and moderated a panel discussion on artificial intelligence in "Higher

Education: Threats & Opportunities" at the NEA's Higher Ed Conference in Philadelphia on March 14-16.

He co-presented sessions titled "Embracing Neurodiversity: Supporting All Learners in Higher Education" and "Navigating NEA's Procedures: A Guide to Drafting Powerful Proposals for New Business Items, Legislative Amendments and Resolutions."

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Blanchard

Dr. Tom Blanchard, professor of biology; **Dr. Jaycob Warfel**, assistant professor of biology; and **Dr. Dawn Wilkins**, professor of biology, attended the 86th annual meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists held March 12-15 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, with 14 UTM students.

Ally Goad and Christin Rickman, senior health and human performance majors, presented a poster co-authored with Warfel, and students Maitri



Goyret

Chauhan and Layla Loftis titled "Investigating HuR as a target for the treatment of metabolic disease."

Charles Sands, senior organismal biology major, presented a poster co-authored with Wilkins titled "Breeding biology of eastern screech-owls and barred owls in northwest Tennessee."

Elizabeth Lattus, junior ecology and environmental biology major, presented a poster



Warfel

co-authored by Blanchard titled "An investigation of the effects of stream restoration on aquatic macroinvertebrate assemblages in two first-order tributaries of the Middle Fork Forked Deer River in West Tennessee."

Wilkins presented a poster co-authored by Courtney Hutchison, a December 2024 UTM graduate with a degree in natural resources management, titled "Fruit preferences of eastern bluebirds during



Wilkins

the winter in southwestern Kentucky and northwestern Tennessee."

Collin McClure, senior organismal biology major, and Austin Dunagan, junior pre-dental student majoring in finance, presented a poster co-authored by **Dr. Joaquin Goyret**, professor of biology, titled "The role of sensory cues in the foraging habitats of *Manduca sexta* moths under low-illuminance conditions."



Le



Moore

Dr. Ben Le, associate professor of accounting, and **Dr. Paula Moore**, professor of accounting and business law and chair of the Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance, published a paper, "The Determinants of CEO Compensation in the Banking Sector: A Comparison of the Influence of Cross-Listing and Loan Growth in Developed Versus Developing Countries."

The paper was published

March 19 in Vol. 18, Issue 3, of The Journal of Risk and Financial Management. It was co-authored by Dr. Nischala Reddy, associate professor of finance at the University of Central Missouri.

Using 8,800 observations from 45 countries from 2004 to 2018, the analysis reveals significant differences in compensation structures between developed and developing economies.

**Take part in the 11th annual
Captain's Challenge April 2!**

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Lily Pharris

Dr. Lily Pharris, assistant professor of computer science, attended the 52nd annual conference of the Federation of Business Disciplines in Tulsa, Oklahoma, March 18-22.

Pharris gave the oral presentation, "Towards Data Mining Time Management Data to Predict Student Success During COVID-19" with collaborators from Northwestern State University of Louisiana.

Dr. Paul Pharris, assistant professor of theatre and a certified teacher through the Society of American Fight Directors, participated in the 10th annual Rural Renewal workshop March 19-21 at Murray State University, where he trained and choreographed about 30 students from across the nation as they renewed their stage combat certifications in eight weapons, including small sword, quarterstaff, unarmed, broadsword, sword and shield, single sword, rapier and dagger, and knife.

Pharris will also participate in the 34th annual Stage Combat



Paul Pharris

Workshop on April 18-19 at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana, alongside fight directors, teachers and choreographers from across the country.

Dr. Nell Gullett and **Dr. Mahmoud Haddad**, professors of finance, and **Dr. Laura Hatch**, assistant professor of accounting, had their article, "Risk-Adjusted Returns of Ethical Companies," published in Vol. 24, Issue 5 (Dec. 31, 2024), of the Journal of Accounting and Finance.

The investment performance of 28 publicly traded companies recognized by Ethisphere for their socially responsible behavior is examined. Stock returns and sector Net Asset Values are used to assess risk-adjusted returns performance.

Results show that while more than half of the companies underperformed their respective sectors, the overall ethical portfolio generated positive risk-adjusted excess returns, primarily driven by strong performance from the technology sector.

The findings suggest ethical companies may provide valuable investment opportunities, particularly in the technology and finance sectors.



Gullett



Haddad



Hatch

The fourth annual ELLI Conference takes place
April 3 at Discovery Park of America!

You Tell Me

• **Question** – What can be done about inactive official university social media pages?

• **Answer** – This is a challenge for managing social media accounts, and no easy answers exist. If an office, department or college has an inactive UT Martin account, the administrator can delete the account. A good rule of thumb is that accounts inactive for more than a year should be removed. Few options are open if no access is available to an inactive account. Requesting the social media platform to remove an account is a lengthy process for which there is no guarantee of removal. The university's Social Media Guidelines require that account administrators be full-time UT Martin employees. It's also recommended that more than one person share responsibility and access information for an account.

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

Call Me MiSTER graduates third class



The UT Martin Call Me MiSTER (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) program presented its third graduating class March 15 at The Lindell in downtown Martin. Shown with Dr. Austin Ferrell (far left), director and academic success coordinator of the Call Me MiSTER program, are graduates (l-r) Jamarion Higgins, Charles Hockett, Keshawn Glover, Braxton Hobson, Diego Hutizache and Solomon Hightower. Call Me MiSTER is a teacher recruitment and retention program open to all aspiring teachers, regardless of race, ethnicity or gender. Graduates are expected to commit to serving communities facing teacher recruitment and retention challenges for as many years as they received support.

UTM stunt team visits Kiwanis Club of Martin



Amber Minton (third from left), head coach for the UT Martin stunt team, and eight student-athletes were guests of the Kiwanis Club of Martin for its March 19 meeting. Minton said that stunt is a new NCAA sport that is an exciting head-to-head competition between two teams who execute skills-based routines in various categories: partner stunts, pyramids and tosses, team routines and jumps and tumbling, incorporating skills derived from cheerleading. At the recent stunt competitions hosted by UT Martin at the Skyhawk Fieldhouse on March 15-16, the Skyhawk team logged four wins in four games. Minton was introduced by Danelle Fabianich (far left), Kiwanis program chair for March and executive senior associate athletics director for administration. Laura Taylor (second from left), Kiwanis president, presented Minton with a certificate of appreciation showing that a donation will be made to Martin Public Library in her honor. Also shown are UTM stunt team members (l-r) Emma Phelps, Emmy Melton, Ashley Myles and Emily Hartley.



Shown at the 2025 Hoops for Heroes announcement March 5 during the Ohio Valley Conference Basketball Championships in Evansville, Indiana, are (l-r) OVC Director of Compliance and Administration Katie Risewick; Mark Kattenbaker, Eastern Illinois; Charles E. Johnson, Lindenwood; Jim Pitts, Little Rock; Jessica Harris, Morehead State; Jeff Crites, Southeast Missouri; Walter Chase, SIU Edwardsville; Bruno Martin, Southern Indiana; Briana Salters, Tennessee State; Mark Hills, Tennessee Tech; Lloyd Thomas, UT Martin; OVC Assistant Commissioner for Championships Colin Parker; and OVC Commissioner Beth DeBauche. Not pictured is Western Illinois University Hoops for Heroes representative Nick Severs.

Thomas honored in OVC's Hoops for Heroes

Lloyd Thomas, a sergeant in the UT Martin Department of Public Safety, was selected as the university's representative in this year's Ohio Valley Conference Hoops for Heroes initiative.

Thomas was recognized in a pregame on-court ceremony March 5 at the 2025 OVC Basketball Championships at the Ford Center in Evansville, Indiana, with representatives from the other OVC member schools.

Thomas has served in the UT Martin Department of Public Safety since 2023. He previously worked as a deputy sheriff at the Shelby County Sheriff's Office for a decade after spending nine years as an officer with the Memphis Police Department.

He also worked as a correctional officer at the Shelby County Division of Corrections (2002-03) and the Illinois Department of

Corrections (2000-02).

Serving his country as a cavalry scout, Thomas served in the U.S. Army from 1993 to 1999, at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Fort Riley, Kansas, before serving overseas at Schweinfurt, Germany. He helped provide humanitarian relief during Operation Desert Storm.

"I was really surprised," he said of being named to represent UT Martin in the OVC Hoops for Heroes initiative. "I didn't think that anyone thought of me like that. I was deeply honored to be selected."

"I love the UTM family, and it's an honor to be a part of a family like that."

The Hoops for Heroes initiative began in 2011 as a way to honor veterans from Ohio Valley Conference schools who have served in the military. This year, the project expanded to also honor first responders

who serve in our member institution communities.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) of the OVC selects a representative from each member school and invites them to attend the OVC Basketball Championships. UT Martin members of the OVC SAAC for the 2024-25 school year include men's basketball player David Kamwanga, volleyball player Mia Saenz, and rifle team member Alayna Walther.

Previous UT Martin Hoops for Heroes honorees include: Bill Kaler, 2011; Vincent Newsome, 2012; Wayne "Moe" Alexander 2013; Jenny Harrison, 2014; Ed Baker, 2015; Corey Scates, 2016; Terry Ward, 2017; Led Symmes, 2018; Marcus Vancleave, 2019; Joe Exum, 2020; Chuck Hammer, 2022; and Roy Wiley, 2023.

Hatch speaks at Kiwanis Club of Martin



Colin Hatch (center), senior associate athletics director of development at UT Martin for the Office of Development and the UT Foundation, was the guest speaker for the March 12 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Martin, held in the Boling University Center. Hatch spoke of his unique perspective as a collegiate athlete as a baseball player at Union University in Jackson and his extensive work in sales that led him to his current position, where his passion for athletics and sales combine. Hatch was introduced to the program by Danelle Fabianich (right), Kiwanian program chair for March and executive senior associate athletics director for administration. He was presented a certificate of appreciation by Kiwanis Club President Laura Taylor and was told that a donation will be made in his honor to Martin Public Library.

Tea party set for April 10

The Hortense Parrish Writing Center and the Paul Meek Library are teaming up to host a tea party at the library at 4 p.m., Thursday, April 10.

Enjoy tea, light refreshments and informal discussions about how women have used tea rooms as safe spaces to advocate for change, from suffragettes and temperance advocates to

civil rights activists and literary pioneers. Attendees are invited to celebrate the voices of women past and present.

The dress code is optional. Feel free to wear vintage tea attire or women's rights-inspired colors (white, purple and gold).

For more information, contact Beth Walker at owl@utm.edu.

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

Tuesday, March 25

- Baseball vs. Southern Illinois, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

March 28-29

- Equestrian, Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship, Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

Saturday, April 5

- *Beach volleyball vs. Chattanooga (dh), noon, 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.



Campus Calendar

March 24-28

- Spring break.

March 27-29

- The Wildlife Society Southeastern Conclave, several sites on campus.

Tuesday, April 1

- Dr. David Roediger, historian of race and labor, speaking presentation, 6 p.m., quad window area of Paul Meek Library.

Wednesday, April 2

- Captain's Challenge, all day; visit challenge.utm.edu.

Thursday, April 3

- ELLI Conference, Discovery Park of America, Union City; visit www.utm.edu.elli.

April 7-11

- I Heart UTM Week.

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

addenda

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