

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | April 7, 2025

Brundige, Freeman inform community at Town and Gown



Martin Mayor Randy Brundige (left) and Chancellor Yancy Freeman provided city and university updates, respectively, to attendees at the UT Martin and City of Martin Town and Gown Association meeting held April 1 at the Martin Event Center. Brundige talked about city progress in several areas, and Freeman reminded the group about the spring semester's upcoming conclusion and his thoughts on a successful academic year. He noted the UT Board of Trustees' approval of the new UT Martin Strategic Plan and beginning construction of the TEST Hub. The association provides a network of resources for students, faculty, staff, businesses and residents to collaborate services, events, programs, recreation, commerce and education.

Chancellor sets 'Building Buzz Sessions' for campus

Chancellor **Yancy Freeman** is scheduling mini-town halls called "Building Buzz Sessions" for each major building on campus to provide an opportunity to hear what is on people's minds.

Building Buzz Sessions have been scheduled for Gooch Hall, Brehm Hall and the Johnson EPS Building.

"I plan to visit with faculty and staff across campus, building by building, over the next year to get to know our employees better and improve our campus-wide communications and connections," Freeman said. "This will be an informal hour of casual conversation over coffee and an opportunity for me to

engage with faculty, staff and co-workers in these buildings to discuss current issues they are experiencing.

"It will also give our UTM community an opportunity to share their achievements, ask questions, network, voice concerns, explore innovative ideas and incentives for moving forward in building up our university, reaching our goal of 10,000 students, and becoming more involved in the teamwork of accomplishing UTM's mission."

Each building with multiple occupants will have its own session, and all university employees are welcome to attend any

session, even if it is not their building.

Upcoming Building Buzz Sessions include:

- Tuesday, April 15, 2 p.m., Room 219 Johnson EPS Building.
- Wednesday, April 16, 3 p.m., Room 343 Gooch Hall.
- Thursday, April 17, 1 p.m., Room 258 Brehm Hall (includes UT Martin extended farm facilities).

For those buildings not scheduled to have a Building Buzz Session this semester, the chancellor's office will begin scheduling more sessions this fall for other buildings.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Three faculty members in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages gave presentations at the 54th annual College English Association Conference, held March 27-29 in Philadelphia.

Dr. Kelle Alden, associate professor of English and director of the Hortense Parrish Writing Center, shared research findings in “Reading is A Civil Right: Strategies for Helping Low-Literacy Adults in a Writing Center Setting.”



Alden

Dr. David Carithers, associate professor of English, highlighted free-speech principles in “Sing the Truth and Name the Liars’:



Carithers

Salman Rushdie and the Writer’s Fight for Freedom.”

Dr. Daniel Pigg, professor of English, offered a fresh



Pigg

perspective on a canonical author in “Phillis Wheatley: America’s First Post-Colonial Poet of Freedom and Liberty.”



Pruitt

Faculty members in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources published an article in Advance Access for a special issue of Applied Economics Teaching Resources (April 2).

The article is titled “Using Generative Artificial Intelligence to Aid Classroom Retention,” and the authors are **Dr. J.**



Delmond

Ross Pruitt, former professor of agricultural economics; **Dr. Anthony R. Delmond**, associate professor of economics and Hendrix Chairholder in Free Enterprise; **Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn**, associate professor of agricultural engineering; and **Dr. Diana L. Watson**, assistant professor of animal science.

The article investigates



Mehlhorn

students’ perceptions of artificial intelligence – as a tool and its ethical use – and how they had previously used it inside and outside of the classroom.

The authors adapted several traditional assignments to use AI and measured students’ content knowledge before and after using this tool in the prescribed ways.



Watson

Additionally, they collected information about their experiences and perceptions of using AI in this manner.

Using these data, the authors estimated the impacts of utilizing generative AI as a learning tool and found that, when students were open to guided use of AI, their understanding of the course content could deepen.

Promote a faculty or staff member by sending a YoUTM to addenda@utm.edu!

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Katie Mantooth, assistant director of Career Planning and Development, earned her CliftonStrengths Certification in March.

The CliftonStrengths assessment and strengths-based coaching techniques help people discover their unique talents, leverage their strengths and achieve goals. This information can be empowering for individuals and build more cohesive teams.

Mantooth can provide access codes and facilitate one-on-one coaching or group presentations



Mantooth

for interested students, faculty and staff. For inquiries, contact Mantooth at 731-881-3716 or kpmantooth@utm.edu.

'Women Speaking Out' tea party to be held at PML on April 10

The Hortense Parrish Writing Lab and the Paul Meek Library will host a tea party in the library from 4 to 5:30 p.m. April 10.

Enjoy tea and light refreshments in this come-and-go setting along with informal discussions about how women used tea rooms as safe spaces to advocate for change, from

suffragettes, temperance advocates and civil rights activists to literary pioneers.

Participants are welcome 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.

You're Invited!

The Writing Center and Library's Spring Tea Party

Women Speaking Out!

April 10th, 2025
4:00-5:30pm

UTM Library
North Windows

Dress Code (Optional): vintage tea attire or women's rights-inspired colors (white, purple, and gold)

UTM+

RSVP on Runway!

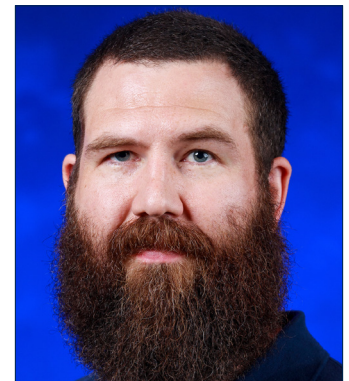
Dr. Clint Ary, associate professor of animal science, presented the research poster, "Taking the (Ag) Business out of Vet Science: Why Vet Science Students are Not Minor in Ag Business," April 3 at the Experiential Learning Leadership Institute Conference hosted by UT Martin at the Discovery Park of America in Union City.

Dr. Jason Roberts, professor of animal science, and **Dr. Brittany Cole**, assistant professor of finance, are coauthors on the project.

The project surveys upper-level undergraduate veterinary science and technology students to determine why they do not minor in business.

Making a business minor more accessible to veterinary science and technology students is valuable because 90% of students surveyed believe a minor is helpful in a veterinary career. Of the students surveyed, 90% were also unaware that adding an ag business minor does not require taking many additional courses.

Undergraduate veterinary science students prioritize vet school prerequisites over minor coursework. This decision may leave them lacking practice management skills, and minoring in business may help veterinary students gain veterinary practice management skills. Students are most interested in a minor that contains career-related



Ary



Roberts



Cole

information, improves future competitiveness for veterinary school acceptance, and aids in job performance.

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

Duncan, Weiss speak at Kiwanis Club of Martin



Jodie Duncan (second from right), director of event management for athletics, and senior equestrian team member Rileigh Weiss (far left) spoke at the Kiwanis Club of Martin meeting March 26. They spoke about the community outreach projects that the UTM student-athletes participate in, coordinated through the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Also shown are Danielle Fabianich (second from left), UTM executive senior associate athletic director for administration and Kiwanis program chair for March, and Dr. Clinton Smith, chair of the Department of Educational Studies and a member of the Kiwanis Club of Martin.

Residence hall directors and residence assistants honored



Residence hall directors and residence assistants honored April 1 at an appreciation dinner posing outside of the Dunagan Alumni Center are (front row, l-r) Ryan Martin, Gina McClure, Maggie Archibald, Destiny Hensley, Bethany Mayers, Ocean Bradley, Lynetta Stampley, Tiana Martin, Michael Bedsole, Ava King, Kayla Street, Kate Pilcher, Bailee Jernigan, Charley Crawford, Olivia Woolard, Harley Gulley, Dalsin Denzer, Kayla McDowell, Alexxis DeinLein, Sidney Church, Cecilia Stapleton, (back row, l-r) Allen Farmer, Terry Bingham, Darcey Brown, Elizabeth Lattus, Sam Browne, Aidan Young, Garrett Houin, CJ Goers, Noah Hamblin, Allen Dumas, Isaiah Smith, Logan Banaszak, Dylan Kinkle, Hoki Joyner, Jordan Reynolds, Laura Kepler and Chancellor Yancy Freeman.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – UTM meteorology students often provide weather updates and forecasts on social media. How often are updated forecasts and reports offered? What is the best social media platform to see this content?

• **Answer** – Meteorology students maintain an active Instagram account ([utm.meteorology](https://www.instagram.com/utm.meteorology)) and provide campus forecasts on Monday afternoons. During severe weather, students will “go live” or make posts about the weather situation on Instagram for the campus community. There are plans to expand the meteorology program’s reach on other social media platforms next year, so stay tuned.

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

Fourth annual ELLI Conference held at Discovery Park



Dr. Harriette Spiegel, UTM lecturer of education, speaks about "Digital Accessibility and AI" at the fourth annual Experiential Learning Leadership Institute (ELLI) Conference, held April 3 at Discovery Park of America in Union City. The conference highlights some of ELLI's research in experiential learning.

This Week's Skyhawk Home Events

Friday, April 11

- *Baseball vs. Western Illinois, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

Saturday, April 12

- *Softball vs. Tennessee Tech, 2:30 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field.
- *Baseball vs. Western Illinois, 3 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

Sunday, April 13

- *Softball vs. Tennessee Tech (dh), noon, Bettye Giles Softball Field.
- *Baseball vs. Western Illinois, 1 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

Monday, April 14

- Golf, Carpenter/Chaney Classic, Country Club of Paducah (hosting with Morehead State).

* - 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.



Giles to speak on Haywood County history

Dr. Henri Giles, assistant professor in the Department of History and Philosophy, will share research into the lived experiences of Black residents of Haywood County during the Jim Crow era and the Civil Rights Movement in a public event at 4 p.m. April 15 in the Paul Meek Library as part of the UT Martin Research Series monthly speakers program.

The presentation, titled "Restriction and Resistance: Examining Black Freedom in Haywood County, 1940-1965," draws upon oral history interviews, media texts and other historical accounts from this majority Black county in West Tennessee.

Giles' research tracks the history of three events between 1940 and 1965: the lynching of NAACP officer Elbert Williams, a federal voting rights lawsuit and the desegregation of public schools.

"Blacks in Haywood County faced significant social and political restrictions during the period of racial segregation," Giles said. "Yet, individuals



Giles

were able to maneuver around efforts to silence the community to reclaim their voice."

Giles joined the faculty in the UT Martin Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication in 2015. Following completion of her doctoral degree from the University of Memphis in 2024, she was named assistant professor of African American Studies in the Department of History and Philosophy.

She serves as chairperson of the university's annual Civil Rights Conference as well as the Dr. Henry Parker Speaker Series.

Before moving into higher education, Giles worked extensively in the broadcast and media industries, including her award-winning film "Waiting in the Wings: African Americans in Country Music," and the Emmy Award-winning documentary "Reflect, Reclaim, Rejoice: Preserving the Gift of Black Sacred Music."

In 2023, Giles was awarded the President's Award, an honor given by the president of the University of Tennessee System for stellar service among UT faculty and staff.

The UT Martin Research Series is co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs and the Paul Meek Library.

This free public event will be held in the north reading room of the Paul Meek Library, with a livestream broadcast.

Registration is not required, but can be found on the library's Runway event page.

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

UTM's TVA Investment Challenge team fares well



UT Martin students took part in the Tennessee Valley Authority Investment Challenge program April 3-4 in Nashville. During the event, the portfolio managers presented to TVA professionals and fellow students and presented their portfolio in a managerial style. The UTM TVA program earned top honors among the 29 participating schools, receiving a trophy and monetary award for their outstanding 2024 performance, which surpassed the S&P 500 benchmark. In addition to presenting, the students had the opportunity to network and engage with finance and portfolio management professionals throughout the conference. Shown at the conference are (l-r) Samuel Shuman, Tobias Bolcom, Colton Bailey, Brett Tims, Luis Ventura, Bennett Ragan, Kayla Potete and Archie Scott and professor of finance Dr. Mahmoud Haddad.

Honors Day set for April 13

Nicholas Glenn, a 2005 UT Martin graduate, will be the guest speaker at the Honors Day program, scheduled for 2 p.m., Sunday, April 13, in the Phillip W. Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

A Memphis native, Glenn is the regional executive director of Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence (LEAD) Inc. for the region including Tennessee.

In 2022, he was recognized as the LEAD National Instructor of the Year and the LEAD Tennessee State Instructor of the Year. Since 2008, he has also held the position of team chaplain for the UT Martin football program.

The Honors Day program has grown from fewer than 20 awards to more than 50 awards and 25 college and academic honors.

Campus Calendar

Thursday, April 10

- "Women Speaking Out" tea party, 4 p.m., first floor, north windows, Paul Meek Library.

Sunday, April 13

- Registered Student Organizations (RSO) Awards, 6 p.m., Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.

Tuesday, April 15

- Building Buzz Session, 2 p.m., 219 Johnson EPS

Building.

Wednesday, April 16

- Building Buzz Session, 3 p.m., 343 Gooch Hall.

Thursday, April 17

- Building Buzz Session, 1 p.m., 258 Brehm Hall.

April 17-19

- UTM Spring College Rodeo, 7:30 p.m. nightly.

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

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