

## Fallen heroes honored on campus in ceremony



UT Martin honored fallen servicepeople May 26 in its annual Memorial Day Commemoration ceremony, held on the patio between the Boling University Center and the Paul Meek Library. Retired Tennessee Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Mike Malone (fourth from left), a UTM graduate, was the guest speaker. Joining Malone for a group photo at the event were (l-r) retired Navy Chaplain Debra McGuire of Paris, Chancellor Yancy Freeman, U.S. Rep. David Kustoff (R-Tenn. 8th Dist.) and Lt. Col. Bernard House, professor of military science.

## Patterson, Smartt named UTAA Outstanding Teachers

The University of Tennessee Alumni Association (UTAA) announced its 2025 faculty award winners. UT Martin's Dr. Tammie Patterson, associate professor in the Department of Educational Studies, and Dr. Philip Smartt, professor of natural resources management in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, received the Outstanding Teacher Award.

The UTAA recognizes more than 30 faculty members system-wide each year who demonstrate a passion for teaching, commitment to public service, and dedication to each campus and its students.

An awards ceremony will be held in conjunction with the UTAA Board of Governors meeting on June 6, in Knoxville.

Patterson has taught educa-

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Patterson



Smartt



YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

**Kurt McGuffin**, vice chancellor and director of athletics, is chair of the 10-member NCAA Division I Women’s Softball Committee.

McGuffin was appointed to the national committee in 2022, and his term runs through August 2026.

Among related media appearances, he was interviewed by reporter Holly Rowe during ESPN2’s tournament selection show on May 11.

He and the committee are responsible for managing the



McGuffin

NCAA Division I Women’s Softball Tournament.

McGuffin has led UT Martin athletics since 2017.

**Dr. Paula Moore**, chair of the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics and Political Science, and **Dr. Ben Le**, associate professor of accounting, published a paper May 6 in Review of Accounting and Finance entitled “Climate change regulation compliance and earnings management.”

That paper can be found [at this site](#).

The paper shows that the

Nitrogen Oxides Budget Trading Program led to significant increases in real-earnings management, particularly through inventory overproduction and reductions in discretionary expenditures (selling, general and administrative expenses and research and development expenses).

The impact on accrual-based earnings management was limited.



Moore



Le

**Dr. Adnan Rasool**, associate professor of political science, gave a keynote address May 15 at the Tennessee Business Roundtable’s “Discover the Roundtable” event in Martin.

His presentation was about the work that he and his team are doing in West Tennessee, specifically the Martin Needs Assessment Survey and the Rural Governance Capacity Building program.



Rasool

The talk included insights about how rural development can be an engine of economic growth and how public private partnerships can revitalize rural communities.

The Tennessee Business Roundtable is an invite-only organization that represents

businesses and C-Level executives of Tennessee’s leading companies. As major employers in the state, Roundtable leaders join with their communities, workers and policymakers to build a better future for the Tennessee and its people.

**Dr. Rick West**, chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance, was featured as one of the subjects in a book written and released by Timothy Baghurst.

“[Reflections on the Coaching Life](#)” is a collection of stories and reflections of coaches at various levels.



West

West was featured for his time as an associate head men’s swimming coach at West Virginia University prior to his arrival at UTM.

The book offers insights, strategies and authentic stories

of coaches of several sports and is geared toward those wanting to become coaches or wanting to become better coaches.

*Submit a YoUTM  
or question  
to [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu)!*

June 2025						
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# 10 faculty members earn ORSP summer 2025 awards

Ten UT Martin faculty members received summer 2025 awards for the Faculty Development Grant Program coordinated by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP).

The summer award winners were:

- **Dr. Shalmali Bandyopadhyay**, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, was awarded \$2,000 in the research category. Her

project titled “Differential Equations with Variable Time Steps: An Undergraduate Research Initiative” will fund a meaningful undergraduate research experience in advanced mathematical analysis, with Bandyopadhyay deepening her expertise in advanced calculus while mentoring an undergraduate researcher.

- **Dr. Matthew Braddock**, professor of philosophy, was awarded \$1,446 in the

conference participation category. His project titled “The Legal Implications of Moral Risk in Bioethics” received funds to present at the Stout-Miss Bioethics Workshop held last May.

- **Dr. Mercan Derafshi**, assistant professor of family and consumer sciences, received \$1,500 in the professional development category. Her project titled “Instructional and Professional Development in Italy and Denmark” was awarded funding to support the design and development of Fashion 300: Clothing, Adornment, and World Culture as an international study-abroad course in Siena, Italy, as well

as participation in the PLATE 2025 Conference on Product Lifetimes and the Environment in Denmark.

- **Dr. Brandt Gibson**, lecturer in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources, was awarded \$1,935 in the research category. His project titled “Origins of Animal Ecosystem on Earth” will help fund a preliminary expedition for Gibson and two students to key localities in the Flinders Ranges in Australia to document paleoenvironmental and paleoecological data surrounding preserved Ediacaran communities.

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Bandyopadhyay



Braddock



Derafshi



Gibson



Haddad



Krueger

## Duclos' paper earns award



Wesley “Chase” Duclos, a double-major in computer science and cybersecurity and UT Martin’s first-ever graduate in cybersecurity, presented his research May 15 at SecureTrans 2025, an IEEE Workshop held in conjunction with the 46th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (IEEE S&P) in San Francisco.

His paper, “In-Progress:

Reinforcement Learning for Cyberattack Defense in Autonomous Intersection Management Systems,” developed under the mentorship of **Dr. Jian Wang**, assistant professor of computer science, received the Best Undergraduate Paper Award.

Duclos attended the conference with **Dr. Lily Pharris**, assistant professor of computer science.



# UTM, NSCC form partnership in ag business



Chancellor Yancy Freeman shakes hands with Dr. Shanna L. Jackson, president of Nashville State Community College, after agreeing to a partnership offering students a streamlined pathway to a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural business. The partnership was announced and an agreement was signed May 6 at the Humphreys County Higher Education Center in Waverly. Freeman and Jackson were joined at the center for the announcement by elected officials, community members and representatives from both institutions.

## ORSP AWARDS from PAGE 3

- **Dr. Mahmoud Haddad**, professor of finance, is a recipient of \$500 in the conference participation category. His project titled "A Comparison of Risk-Adjusted for U.S. and Non-U.S. Companies on Ethisphere's List of Ethical Companies" will investigate the impact of Ethisphere's ethical listing on national and global companies' risk-adjusted return with a presentation at the WAEL-MEEI Conference this month with the results incorporated into investment classes.

- **Dr. Lisa Krueger**, professor of biology, was awarded \$1,500 in the professional development

category. Her project titled "Expanding the University of Tennessee at Martin Herbarium" will provide funds to attend a one-week accredited course at Western Carolina University to develop botany skills and knowledge, enhance content of classes taught and add 50 to 60 specimens of seedless vascular plants to the UT Martin Herbarium for teaching and research.

- **Dr. Renee LaFleur**, associate professor of history, received \$1,500 in the conference participation category. Funds will be used for travel to the Southern Association for Women Historians Triennial

Conference, where LaFleur will present on her historical research, attend panels and sessions to explore new research areas and gain material for the classes she teaches.

- **Dr. Amber Moore**, assistant professor of veterinary science and technology, was awarded \$1,449 in the professional development category. Funds will be used to present at the Association of Veterinary Educators Conference in August.

- **Dr. Saman Sargolzaei**, associate professor of engineering, was awarded \$1,500 in the conference

participation category. Funding will be used to present at the IEEE International Conference on Engineering Reliable Autonomous Systems 2025 as well as gather knowledge and insights to inform research projects and course curriculum.

- **Dr. Jason Stout**, professor of art, was awarded \$2,000 in the creative activity category. His project titled "In My Room, Alone with Everyone" requested funding for materials, entry fees for national exhibitions, shipping costs and travel for a solo exhibition at The Janis Mason Museum of Art in October.



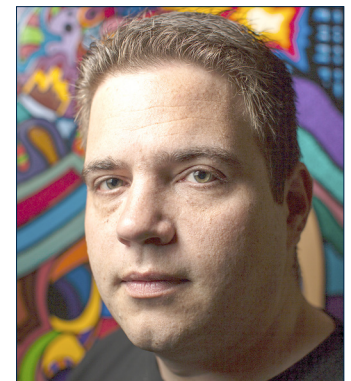
LaFleur



Moore



Sargolzaei



Stout



# Gurrero, Banyopadhyay present at conference

**Dr. Pamela Gurrero** and **Dr. Shalmali Bandyopadhyay**, both assistant professors of mathematics and statistics, attended the Biennial Research Symposium on May 16-18, hosted by Association of Women in Mathematics (AWM) at University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Both were able to secure travel support from AWM to attend this conference.

Bandyopadhyay and her colleague, Dr. Thialita Nascimento from Iowa State University, organized a special session at the conference named “Early Career Women in Differential Equations and Applications,” a session specifically designed for early-career women in the field of differential equations and their applications to meet the primary objective to facilitate the exchange of ideas across diverse application areas and to foster enhanced collaboration among early career mathematicians specializing in differential equations, broadly defined.

Gurrero presented her research at this session, titled “Global Well Posedness of Benjamin Bona Mahony-Type Equations.”

The Benjamin Bona Mahony (BBM) equation was presented as an alternative to the Korteweg de Vries equation in 1972. Since then, several variations of the BBM equation have been introduced. She



**Dr. Pamela Gurrero (left) and Dr. Shalmali Bandyopadhyay of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics attended the Biennial Research Symposium hosted May 16-18 at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.**

discussed methods, depending on the regularity of the initial condition, to show the BBM type initial value problems are globally well posed.

## Summer Training Series continues Wednesday

The second session of the four-session Summer Training Series hosted by the Office of Human Resources will be held at 10:15 a.m., Wednesday, June 4.

The in-person session will be held in Rooms 102 and 103 of the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building.

The session will also be held

virtually [at this site](#).

The session is titled “Neurodiversity at Work: Strategies for Supportive Leadership and Engagement.”

The hour-long session will be directed by Will Gibson, manager of the Accessibility Resource Center.

This training seeks to engage

and equip UTM faculty and staff with the tools to better serve our various stakeholders, which will bolster the university’s drive toward a 10,000-student enrollment.

The Summer Training Series began May 21 with “From Conflict to Clarity: The DESC Approach to Difficult Conver-

sations.”

Future sessions will be held Wednesday, June 25 – “Supervising Inclusivity: Understanding ADA Accommodations in the Workplace” – and Wednesday, July 9, with “Service Matters: Building Connections Through Great Customer Services.” Both sessions begin at 10:15 a.m.

## You Tell Me

• **Question** – As university enrollment grows, are there plans to bring back a summer commencement ceremony?

• **Answer** – There are currently no plans to bring back a summer commencement ceremony. Fall and spring commencements are currently held on single days in December and May, respectively, that feature morning and afternoon ceremonies. As enrollment grows, a two-day commencement in May is a possibility and would add a Friday night ceremony to the two Saturday ceremonies. This would help to accommodate more spring graduates and commencement attendees.

Submit your questions to Addenda at [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu).





Students named University Scholars in a May 2 ceremony included (front row, l-r) Kaiden Ketron, Ellarose Strasser, Bailey Urhahn, Lauren Milam, Madeleine Griffey, Samantha Wade, Erin Carver, Emily Tester, Shane Tanner, Austin Vest, Anna Ward, Lynsey Buehler, (back row, l-r) Logan Coleman, Hayden Weber, Xavier Jimenez, Zach Whiteman, Garrett Slaughter, Brendan O'Bryan and Trenton Michon. Not pictured is Nathan Hartley.

## University Scholars named in May 2 ceremony

The University Scholars class of 2025 were announced in a ceremony held May 2.

Those honored as University Scholars and their projects, mentors and second readers are:

- Lynsey Addison Buehler, "Antibody Response to Experimental Anaplasmosis Vaccine in UT Martin Beef Cattle Herd"; Dr. Clint Ary, mentor; Dr. Diana Watson and Dr. Amber Moore, second readers.

- Erin Ashlyn Carver, "Ducks, Bugs and Bones: The Use of Dermestid Beetles in the Cleaning of Duck Bills and Skeletal Reconstruction for Museum Curation and Scientific Study"; Dr. Jack Grubaugh, mentor; Dr. Robbie Montgomery, second reader.

- Logan Scott Coleman, "Analysis of Commercial and Regional Honeys"; Dr. Abigail Shelton, mentor; Dr. Robbie Montgomery, second reader.

- Madeleine Elizabeth Davis Griffey, "Correlational Study Between Lifestyle Choices and Type I versus Type II Strains of Cutibacterium acnes in Connection with Acne"; Dr. James Smart, mentor; Dr. Angie MacKewn, second reader.

- Nathan Alan Hartley, "In What Sense - If Any - Is the Incarnation Necessary?: A Speculative Medieval Theological Project"; Dr. Christopher Brown, mentor; Dr. John Schommer, second reader.

- Xavier Jimenez, "Progress Towards a Novel Synthesis of Cannabichromene"; Dr. Verna Baron, mentor; Dr. Genessa Smith, second reader.

- Charles Kaiden Ketron, "A Greener Approach to the Friedel Crafts Acylation Experiment for an Undergraduate Lab"; Dr. Verna Baron, mentor; Dr. Phillip Shelton, second reader.

- Trenton Chase Michon, "The Need for Conspiracy: An Exploration of Conspiracy Theorizing as a Method of Basic Psychological Need Fulfillment"; Dr. Chara van Horn, mentor; Dr. Liam Hayes, second reader.

- Lauren India Mae Milam, "Photobiomodulation Therapy: Pulsed Blue Light as an Antimicrobial Armamentarium"; Dr. Violet Bumah, mentor; Dr. Donald Shaw, second reader.

- Brendan Joseph O'Bryan, "All Costs (and Creatures) Great and Small: Price Sensitivity and Livestock Production"; Dr. Jason Roberts, mentor; Dr. Brittany Cole, second reader.

- Garrett Owen Slaughter, "Current Producer Sentiment of Agricultural Issues in Northwest Tennessee"; Dr. Joseph Mehlhorn, mentor; Dr. Daniel Morris, second reader.

- Margaret Ellarose Strasser, "Functional Analysis of Quarter Scale Pull Tractors"; Dr. Sandra Mehlhorn, mentor; Dr. John Cole, second reader.

- Shane Paul Martin Tanner, "The Carolingian Franks, Byzantium, and the Politics of Iconography"; Dr. Nathan Howard, mentor; Dr. Christopher Brown, second reader.

- Emily Grace Tester, "Exploring Clustering and Classification of 3M Electrical Tape

Using Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy Data"; Dr. Justin Sims, mentor; Dr. Amanda Burkhart, second reader.

- Bailey Corinn Urhahn, "Complete Procedure for Metallographic Sample Preparation and Material Characterization Imaging of Heat-Treated 4340 and 52100 Alloy Steels"; Dr. Ashley Owens, mentor; Dr. Ray Witmer, second reader.

- Austin Wayne Vest, "Analysis of Locally Purchased Commercial  $\Delta 8$ -Tetrahydrocannabinol Products via Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry"; Dr. Amanda Burkhart, mentor; Dr. Robbie Montgomery, second reader.

- Samantha Rhea Wade, "George Washington and the Women in His Life: Sally Fairfax, Martha Washington, and Eliza Powell"; Dr. Dan McDonough, mentor; Dr. Margaret Lewis, second reader.

- Anna Grace Ward, "What Is Love?: A Deep Dive into Relationships"; Dr. Joseph Ostenson, mentor; Dr. Aaron Rowland, second reader.

- Hayden Christopher Weber, "The Impact of Financial Reporting Quality on Dividend Policy and the Role of International Financial Reporting Standards Adoption"; Dr. Ben Le, mentor; Dr. Laura Hatch, second reader.

- Zachary Wolfgang Whiteman, "Fear's Effect on Cognitive Performance Within the Undergraduate Sample"; Dr. Angie MacKewn, mentor; Dr. Joseph Ostenson, second reader.

# Just wingin' it

Captain Skyhawk and two Summer Orientation And Registration (SOAR) leaders take advantage of a break during a SOAR event to show off their moves to music being played at the Boling University Center. Several first-time students to UT Martin took part in the SOAR events May 19 and 20. The next SOAR event will take place Friday, June 6.



## University Relations receives six awards at TCPRA

The Office of University Relations brought back six awards – including two gold awards – from the annual Tennessee College Public Relations Association conference held May 21-23 in Chattanooga.

Awards won by the office and their categories included:

- Gold: Banners and outdoor media, Boling University Center banners; college viewbook, 2024-25 Viewbook.
- Silver: Printed reports, “Ready, Set, Soar: The 2023 UT Martin Chancellor’s Report”; spot photography, “Crikey!”; college promotional video, “Up and Soaring,” UT

Martin official music video.

- Bronze: Sports photography, “Chasing victory.”

UT Martin was one of 18 Tennessee colleges and universities to earn an award at this year’s TCPRA conference.

The Office of University Relations plans, initiates and coordinates the news, photography, printing, publications and other communications needs for UT Martin.

These services are offered with special emphasis on enhancing the university’s image, positive visibility and marketing position, especially for recruiting students and

maintaining contact with alumni, while providing the best customer service in an ever-changing technological environment.

University relations staff include Bud Grimes, vice chancellor for communications and marketing; Nathan Morgan, assistant director of news and visuals; Hannah Stewart, assistant director of marketing; Beth Bodwell, creative services coordinator; Arianne Boma, photographer; Emma Bruner, social media coordinator; Anna Chapman, design coordinator; Dylan Ingram, videographer; David Snow, staff writer; and Norma Coalter, administrative assistant.

### OUTSTANDING from PAGE 1

tion courses at UT Martin’s Parsons Regional Center since 2009, where she also serves as the director of education.

In addition to these roles, she prepares her students for their teaching careers by advising,

mentoring and approving students for the Education Preparation Program.

Patterson holds advanced postgraduate degrees in educational leadership and as a reading specialist.

Smartt has taught courses in

natural resources and park management at UT Martin since 2003.

Outside of the classroom, he has assisted in securing and supervising student internships and service-learning hours, encouraging students to gain

valuable hands-on learning experience.

Each summer, Smartt has helped facilitate the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences and was named program director in 2024.

## addenda

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