

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | July 14 2025



Announced as recipients of President's Awards at the UT System Board of Trustees meeting July 1 were (l-r) Kameron Echols, Gina McClure, Judy Sandefer and Tara Tansil-Gentry.

Faculty, staff members named to President's Award

Four faculty and staff members from UT Martin were named to the 2025 President's Awards, as announced at the UT System Board of Trustees meeting July 1 at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

UT Chattanooga received three of the 17 President's Awards, while the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service, University of Tennessee Southern and University of Tennessee Health Science Center each received two.

President's Awards were presented in seven categories, with a faculty member and a staff member each receiving an award in each category (some categories had more than one faculty member or staff member).

Award winners were announced by UT System President Randy Boyd.

Receiving President's Awards for UT Martin were:

- **Kameron Echols**, director of student life, Embrace Diversity Award, staff member.

“These awards celebrate the dedication and remarkable work of our faculty and staff throughout the state.”

– UT System President Randy Boyd

- **Gina McClure**, assistant vice chancellor for student and residential life, Optimistic and Visionary Award, staff member.

- **Judy Sandefer**, executive assistant, Office of the Chancellor, Excel in All We Do Award, staff member.

- **Tara Tansil-Gentry**, lecturer in health and human performance, Embrace Diversity Award, faculty member.

“These awards celebrate the dedication and remarkable work of our faculty and staff throughout the state,” Boyd said. “Their contributions create a better University of Tennessee and also impact the state and far beyond. Each play an important role as we

continue building the greatest decade in UT history.”

The UT President's Awards program recognizes outstanding contributions of faculty and staff centered around the UT System's “Be One UT” values. Honorees are selected each year from a systemwide pool of candidates nominated by campus and institute leaders.

Commemorative and monetary awards are presented during an annual ceremony, and faculty and staff winners help select honorees in future years. The awards ceremony luncheon will be held in August.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Curtis Kunkel, professor of mathematics and statistics, presented “Positive Solutions to Singular Second-Order Boundary Value Problems on Time Scales” during the American Mathematical Society’s Special Session on Theoretical, Applied and Numerical Aspects of Nonlinear PDEs III.

The special session was held at the 2025 Spring Central Sectional Meeting held at the University of Kansas on March 30.

Kunkel’s research, conducted

in collaboration with **Dr. Shalmali Bandyopadhyay**, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, addresses complex mathematical problems involving singular second-order boundary value problems with mixed boundary conditions on general time scales, proving the existence of positive solutions through a combination of lower and upper solutions method and the Brouwer fixed-point theorem, along with perturbation methods used to approximate regular problems.



Dr. Curtis Kunkel is shown at the AMS Spring Central Sectional Meeting at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.

Dr. Daniel Nappo, professor of Spanish, had his book “La poesía y la música de Joaquín Sabina. Un ángel con alas negras,” or “The poetry and music of Joaquín Sabina: An angel with black wings,” translated and published in Spain.

The book was published by EOLAS Ediciones, based in León, Spain.

The book features a new prologue by Professor Guillermo Laín Corona of the National University of Distance



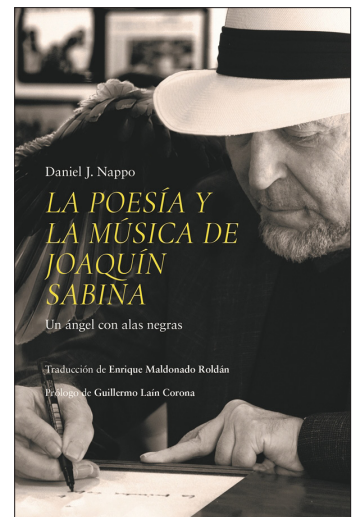
Nappo

Education (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, or UNED). The

prologue was supported by a grant called Proyecto PoeMAS.

“My translation received generous support from the Colectivo Peor para el Sol de Úbeda,” Nappo said in an email. “Peor para el Sol is a group of Sabina’s admirers, most of whom are from his hometown of Úbeda, Spain, who promote music and poetry. The collective is directed by Sabina’s cousin, Juan José Gordillo.”

Information about the book can be found [at this site](#).



Dr. Chanrui “Charlie” Liu, assistant professor of statistics, co-authored an article June 26 in The Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease.

“[Estimation of events in cohort studies based on probability of cognitive impairment](#)” was co-written by eight authors, including Liu.

The objective of the research was to use readily available basic predictors to generate cumulative incidence functions for serious cognitive impairments over years of follow-up.

The co-authors estimated that when two or more risk



Liu

factors are present, the long-term incidence of clinical mild cognitive impairment and dementia is 2.3 to 2.7 times higher than that of the zero-risk group for both sexes.



HHP prof, lecturer, GA help with summer day camp

Dr. Richard West, chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance (HHP); 2024 HHP graduate and current graduate assistant Lexie Meyners (shown at left); and HHP lecturer Shelly Stout (shown at right) participated in the Super Summer Day Camp June 3 at Fulton (Ky.) City Park. Meyners created and designed all of the activities and West and Stout assisted. The event was coordinated by Tracy Pulley of The Family Connection Family Resource and Youth Services Center of the Fulton Independent School District.



Need a place to work off all that pent-up energy that comes with summer? Want to go out and play with your friends? Or do you just want to enjoy s'mores?

The Steven E. Rogers Media Center in Room 117 of the Paul Meek Library is hosting Camp Bonfire at the PML Makerspace from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 15-16.

This come-and-go summer day camp for faculty and staff features lemon jousting, human

Hungry Hippo game, arts and crafts, indoor lawn games and, yes, s'mores.

There's no campfire to gather around and sing songs about camp counselors, but there is something for everyone at Camp Bonfire.

For more information, contact Patricia Sanders, media and makerspace director, at 731-881-7063 or psander9@utm.edu.

No permission slip from your parents is required.



Paul Meek Library to host 'Paint and Sip'

The Paul Meek Library is closing out its Summer Reading Program with a "Paint and Sip" session from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16.

Sangria mocktails and light snacks will be available to all faculty, staff and community adults.

Those expecting to take part should contact Ronne Cox, electronic resources and discovery librarian, at 731-881-7093 or at rjone107@utm.edu.

This is a great opportunity to bond as a department or just to unwind.

July Skyhawk Spirit Award winners announced

The Skyhawk Spirit Award winners for the month of July have been announced, and they are four UT Martin staff members.

This month's winners are **Tony Bufford**, access and engagement coordinator with the Division of Access and Engagement; **Amy Pullen**, administrative assistant with the Department of Public Safety; **Josh Pullen**, information technology coordinator with the Office of Information Technology; and **Adrianne Rutledge**, administrative associate with the Office of Campus Recreation.

Bufford served as the coordinator for the 2025 session of the Young Scholars Academy.

"(Bufford) played a key role in recruiting the 22 participating students and coordinated every detail of the experience," stated his letter of nomination. "Tony

built meaningful relationships with each participant and led a team of UTM student counselors in supporting and mentoring them."

Amy Pullen was nominated for the Skyhawk Spirit Award for her work in the Department of Public Safety.

"Her mastery of payroll, purchasing, compliance and interdepartmental coordination reflects not only her competence but also her deep sense of responsibility to those she serves," stated her letter of nomination. "What sets Amy apart is her consistent willingness to go far beyond her job description. She supports multiple departments, including Environmental Health and Safety, Emergency Management, the Campus Police and the Traffic Office."

Joshua Pullen was nominated for the Skyhawk Spirit Award

for his work in information technology.

"Josh approaches every request with a collaborative spirit and a positive attitude," stated his letter of nomination. "Whether resolving an issue, guiding users through complex processes or developing new solutions to meet evolving needs, he does so with patience, professionalism and meticulous attention to detail."

Rutledge was nominated for the Skyhawk Spirit Award for her work in the Office of Campus Recreation.

"Adrianne has inspired our students to elevate their skills and pursue excellence," stated her letter of nomination. "Remarkably, even after graduation, her influence continues, as she has helped our staff secure opportunities at prestigious institutions like Austin Peay Campus Recreation,

a bear sanctuary in Minnesota and Vanderbilt University."

Each of these Skyhawk Spirit Award winners will receive a commemorative plaque and a \$50 cash prize.

The Skyhawk Spirit Award and Skyhawk Innovation Award were begun in February 2024 as a means of recognizing employee contributions that exceed expectations. The Innovation Spirit Award seeks to recognize employees who achieve beyond the status quo who implement an idea, initiative, process or system that improves efficiencies or outcomes.

All regular full-time faculty and staff up to the level of director are eligible for these awards.

Nominations for the Skyhawk Spirit Award should be sent by the first Friday of each month to skyhawkspiritaward@utm.edu.



Bufford



A.Pullen



J.Pullen



Rutledge

You Tell Me

• **Question** – When will the elevator in Brehm Hall be fixed?

• **Answer** – The elevator in Brehm Hall, which is located on the quad side near Brehm 257, was believed to be the recipient of a lightning strike on the control board. The elevator was made in Canada, and the parts are obsolete. The Physical Plant is pursuing a complete modernization on the elevator to replace all the controls to a current system. That requires a contract, design, approvals, etc., which are all in process. The goal is to have the elevator working by the time classes start in August or as soon as possible thereafter.

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

addenda

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