

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Sept. 1, 2025

Welcome Home Picnic opens the school year



Chancellor Yancy Freeman is shown getting in some cornhole (left photo) and greeting students at the Welcome Home Picnic, held Aug. 21 on the Commer Community lawn. Students were able to unwind after moving back into the residence halls and meet Freeman and faculty members.

Smith, Rasool named fall Featured Faculty Scholars

The UT Martin Featured Faculty Scholars for the fall 2025 semester are **Dr. Clinton Smith**, chair of the Department of Educational Studies and professor of education, and **Dr. Adnan Rasool**, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning and associate professor of political science.

Each semester, the Office of Academic Affairs selects one or two faculty members to be a Featured Faculty Scholar to recognize UT Martin faculty research contributions.

Now in its 30th year, the Featured Faculty Scholars program began in fall 1996 and has had 60 honorees, including Smith and Rasool.



Smith

People may think most about university professors doing scientific research, but music faculty compose music, art faculty organize exhibits of their own art or curate exhibits of other people's art, and historians write articles and books.



Rasool

The Office of Academic Affairs reviews that research and scholarship annually as part of university employees' annual evaluation.

In fall 2021, to further promote the research done by UT Martin faculty, **Dr. Erik Nordberg**,

dean of the Paul Meek Library, and former provost Dr. Philip Cavalier created the UT Martin Research Series, which includes the Featured Faculty Scholars and research of other faculty members.

"Each of the Featured Faculty Scholars serve as one of the speakers in the Research Series," Nordberg said. "We also do a small exhibit case which showcases their research."

"The next Featured Faculty Scholar will be Dr. Clinton Smith, so we have an exhibit right now in the atrium of the library highlighting Dr. Smith's work."

The schedule for the fall 2025
Continued on PAGE 4

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Ronne Cox, electronic resources and discovery librarian, presented June 26 at the second Library 2.025 miniconference, "The Innovative Library: Creativity, Change, and Impact."

Library 2.025 was a virtual international conference sponsored by San Jose State University.

Cox's presentation, "Camp

Discovery: Library Edition," demonstrated how partnerships between universities and public libraries can amplify outreach, expand educational opportunities and strengthen community connections.

The Discovery Camp program is a strong example of how libraries innovate, adapt and lead within the communities they serve.



Cox

Dr. Christopher Brown, professor of philosophy, recently published an article entitled "Restoring a More Human Economy: Advice from Chesterton and Belloc" in *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* Vol. 99, No. 2 (2025), pp. 151-177.

According to English distributists G.K. Chesterton and Hilaire Belloc, there is a virtuous way of thinking about economics – that is, family, property, work and culture



Brown

– one that differs from the inhuman extremes of capitalism

and socialism, and one that was common in Europe before the industrial revolution took hold. Chesterton and Belloc call that social doctrine "distributism."

Brown's paper discusses four ways Chesterton and Belloc characterize distributism and catalogs the many ways that Chesterton and Belloc think we can begin to act in defiance of capitalist and socialist economic tyranny and having restored something of a more human economy in a region, protect it.

Guitar as Art exhibition opens



The annual Guitar as Art exhibition opened Aug. 31 in the art gallery in the Fine Arts Building. The exhibition showcases guitars that have been artistically altered using 2-D media methods. Pictured are (l-r) Jason Stout, professor of art; April Hosey, a sophomore fine and performing arts major from White Bluff (Best in Show); Dr. Roberto Mancusi, professor of music (Best Thematic); Abi Hellmich, owner of The Art Room by Abi (People's Choice Award); City of Martin Mayor Randy Brundige; and Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. The exhibition is open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. through Sept. 28.

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

Thursday, Sept. 4

- Women's soccer vs. Murray State, 7 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field.

Thursday, Sept. 11

- Women's soccer vs. Evansville, 7 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field.

Saturday, Sept. 13

- Football vs. Southern Illinois, 6 p.m., Hardy M. Graham Stadium (Hall of Fame Game).

Saturday, Sept. 20

- Soccer vs. Southern Indiana, 7 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field.

Sept. 26-27

- Equestrian, Blue and Orange Scrimmage, Ned McWhirter Agricultural Complex.

Saturday, Sept. 27

- *Football vs. Southeast Missouri, 6 p.m., Hardy M. Graham Stadium (Family Weekend).

Sunday, Sept. 28

- Soccer vs. Eastern Illinois, 2 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field.

Tuesday, Sept. 30

- *Volleyball vs. Little Rock, 6 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

* - conference competition.

Full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com.

Dates and times are subject to change.



PML to open learning commons area Sept. 3

The Paul Meek Library on the UT Martin campus has made a number of changes on its main floor to make room for a new area of academic assistance and support.

The library learning commons will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the library at 3 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 3.

The coordinator for the new learning commons is **Dr. Amanda Mansfield**, who earned her Master’s in Business Administration from UT Martin in 2020 and a Bachelor’s of Science degree in sociology from UT Martin in 2018. She also earned her Doctor of Education degree from Murray State University in 2024.

Mansfield was a supplemental instruction leader as an undergraduate student, helping students with their academic challenges. As a graduate student, she supervised the supplemental instructors.

Dr. Erik Nordberg, the dean of the Paul Meek Library, said that the library had already hosted several organizations and their activities, including the Supplemental Instruction Program operated by the Student Success Center; a small STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) lab also run by the Student Success Center; and a smaller version of the Hortense Parrish Writing



Lab.

Nordberg said the project began nearly three years ago when he and Brad Baumgardner, the director of retention at the Student Success Center, considered how the Student Success Center and the library could become more collaborative in the way they support students.

“We know from collected data that students who take advantage of academic support functions and services do better,” Nordberg said. “They attain higher grade-point averages, they are more likely to progress semester to semester, and they are more likely to progress to graduation and succeed.”

“The problem tends to be that students think there is a stigma

to ask for help or to get a tutor or do those kinds of things.”

The first challenge was to create a space for the library learning commons. The library did a review of its print reference collections, which Nordberg said were very underused, and it integrated important items into the second-floor circulating collection, allowing the library to move those shelves from the first floor to the second floor.

“In effect, we were able to focus and re-energize our print collection on the second floor and open up the area for the library learning commons,” Nordberg said. “It’s taken us three years to do that, and that’s been a lot of hard work by librarians and staff to review titles, select titles, input from teaching faculty on campus and then, of course, just the physical nature of moving thousands of volumes and shelving.”

located on the second floor of the library.

Nordberg said the goal of the library learning commons has been to make it easy for students with academic challenges.

“Come to the library learning commons – the location is right in the name – and ask for some assistance,” he said. “If you need help finding a peer-reviewed article, we can get you to a librarian. If you need help getting those peer-reviewed articles into an essay, we’ll find somebody from the writing center. If you have a challenge with a harder class, we will connect you to a peer educator student associated with that course.”

The library learning commons includes a new welcome desk, new computer furniture and one-to-one consultation booths. There will be six or seven academic coaches this semester, with a goal of increasing to 10 coaches.

The library learning commons is overseen by Sarah Morris, assistant director of student Success Services, and Baumgardner.

For more information about the library learning commons, call Mansfield at 731-881-3093 or Nordberg at 731-881-7070.

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Tennessee Soybean Festival runs through Sept. 6

The 2025 Tennessee Soybean Festival continues through Saturday, Sept. 6, with several shows and events, including the parade, which begins at 6:30 p.m. tonight (Tuesday, Sept. 2).

The parade will begin at the university, go down University Street to downtown Martin, then up Lindell Street.

Other Tennessee Soybean Festival events include:

- Community health and safety fair, 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 3, downtown.
- A&B Minis and Mobile Petting Zoo, 5-8 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 4, Virginia Weldon Park; available throughout the week.
- Soybean Street Fair, 5-11 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 4, downtown; available all week.
- Piano juggler, 3:30, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 4, Martin Public Library; available throughout the week.
- Disc-Connected K9's, 5, 7 and 9 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 4, Savant Yard on University Street; available throughout the week.
- The One Wheel Wonder, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 4, Martin City Hall parking lot; available throughout the week.
- Bizz and Everyday People concert, 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 4, WK&T Amphitheater.

To see the complete schedule of events for the 2025 Tennessee Soybean Festival, visit tnsoybeanfestival.org.

FACULTY from PAGE 1

UT Martin Research Series includes:

- Thursday, Sept. 18, 4 p.m., Paul Meek Library North Reading Room: Dr. Clinton Smith.
- Tuesday, Oct. 28, 4 p.m., Paul Meek Library North Reading Room: Dr. Adnan Rasool.
- Tuesday, Nov. 18, 4 p.m., Special Collections Reading Room: "UT Martin at 125: Museum Exhibit and Book Launch." Smith worked to establish the Skyhawks Achieving In Life (SAIL) program, which was formed over the summer through a Tennessee Believes grant funded by the Tennessee Department on Disability and Aging.

The SAIL program will begin in summer 2026 and is directed

by Cassie Luna.

The SAIL program will affect students in four ways:

- Provide access to higher education where those pathways were previously inaccessible. The SAIL program will combine academic, vocational and social learning.
- Bolster improved life outcomes. Research has shown that students in similar postsecondary programs have higher rates of employment, independent living and self-determination.
- Develop social integration and a sense of belonging through participation in campus life, such as clubs, classes and events, building their social-emotional growth, confidence and support networks.
- Aid in the transition to independence by emphasizing

daily living skills, self-advocacy and decision-making.

Rasool will speak in the UTM Research Series on Oct. 28. The third and final program in the Research Series on Nov. 18 will be about the university's 125th anniversary. The university's celebration will begin Oct. 10 and will go into the fall 2026 semester. The first classes at the university were held Sept. 2, 1901.

Visitor parking is available with a free permit in the lot adjacent to the library at the corner of Wayne Fisher Drive and Mount Pelia Road.

Parking permits must be obtained prior to visiting the library and may be requested online [at this site](#) by selecting the "Online Visitor Parking Permit" link.

For more information, contact the Paul Meek Library at 731-881-7092.

Campus Calendar	
Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guitar as Art exhibition, 1-5 p.m., art gallery, Fine Arts Building. Wednesday, Sept. 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ribbon-cutting ceremony, 3 p.m., Library Learning Commons, Paul Meek Library.	Friday, Sept. 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Coffee and Conversations with the Chancellor, 1:30 p.m., Room 203 Business Administration Building. <i>Events are subject to cancellation; dates, times and sites are subject to change.</i>

You Tell Me

• **Question** – Some of the incoming freshmen have two email addresses, one ending in the normal @ut.utm.edu and one ending in @skyhawks.utm.edu. One student told me that he could only access one of those emails, not both, which certainly could cause issues, if we think a student is getting emails that they don't actually have access to. When we email these students, which email address should we use?

• **Answer** – The Skyhawk address is new for 2025 admissions. This is the new student address format since student accounts will now be in Microsoft Outlook, which provides enhanced security features and better integration with campus systems. These students are also assigned an @ut.utm.edu alias. This ensures a smooth transition in case someone accidentally sends a message to the older address format; it will automatically forward to the new Outlook account. Students who currently use the older format are welcome to transition to the Skyhawk address at any time. To request the change, students should contact the ITS Help Desk at helpdesk@utm.edu.

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

MAPP program expands with TAPP

In July 2023, **Kim Barnett-Stone**, administrative assistant in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, and **Angie Gertsch**, administrative aide in the Office of Academic Affairs, introduced a mentor-based support program for new UT Martin administrative staff members.

That program is called MAPP, the Mentoring Administrative Professional Program, and now, the program is ready to enter a new phase.

The expanded program is called TAPP, the Transitional Administrative Professional Program, and it is scheduled to begin Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Since its introduction, the MAPP program has had 187 people take part. Each participant in the program receives a packet of information, including a checklist for things like SANS Institute (cybersecurity) training, office keys and other first-time information as well as information about Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) training, parking permits and other necessities for being a university employee.

The program lasts for six months to a year for each participant and relies on UTM faculty and staff to volunteer to be mentors to help guide the new employees.

Barnett-Stone felt that the program needed to expand to provide support after participants left the MAPP program. The TAPP program provides continued training.

“That is, especially if the person is moving from one position to another position, and they’ve been here for a while,” Gertsch said. “TAPP has some of the more in-depth trainings that the newer people are not prepared for and keeps them from getting overwhelmed.”

TAPP also provides extended training of what participants had in the MAPP program for those who needed more in-depth training in those areas.

“When we started MAPP, we anticipated



Shown are the facilitators of the MAPP and TAPP programs at UT Martin, (l-r) **Tonya Evans**, TAPP program facilitator; **Angie Gertsch**, MAPP program facilitator and TAPP program co-facilitator; and **Kim Barnett-Stone**, creator of the MAPP and TAPP programs and co-facilitator of both programs.

people moving out of the program in six months to a year,” Gertsch said. “About half of them have stayed because we’ve also implemented new programs in DASH, and they feel that it’s helpful in that transition after these new financial and (human resource) systems.”

TAPP participants may also serve as mentors to those in the MAPP program.

One of the advantages of the MAPP program that will carry over to the TAPP program is the chat capability through Microsoft Teams, enabling a participant to post a question and have it answered within minutes.

“All of the mentors are in there answering questions and making sure everybody has

the resources they need,” Gertsch said.

Both the MAPP and the TAPP programs are unique to UT Martin. They are supported by the UT Martin Department of Human Resources.

Barnett-Stone created the MAPP and TAPP programs and is a co-facilitator of both programs. Gertsch is the MAPP program facilitator and TAPP program co-facilitator, and **Tonya Evans**, administrative program specialist for the Division of Access and Engagement, is the TAPP program facilitator.

For more information about the MAPP program email mapp@utm.edu, and for information about the TAPP program, email tapp@utm.edu.

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

addenda

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