

# addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Sept. 29, 2025

## Boyd, UT ag commission visit UTM campus



UT System President Randy Boyd is shown taking a spin Sept. 24 on the tractor built by the UT Martin tractor team that placed 10th in the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) International Quarter-Scale Tractor Student Design Competition held May 29-June 1 in Peoria, Illinois, as part of a visit by the UT Commission on Agriculture. Joining Dr. Todd Winters (to the left of Boyd), dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, were (to the right of Boyd, l-r) Chancellor Yancy Freeman; Andy Holt, deputy commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture; and Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural engineering. The UT Commission on Agriculture is an advisory group that meets quarterly and rotates meeting sites around Tennessee.

## UTM among regional top 20 in U.S. News rankings

UT Martin has again earned a spot in the Regional Universities South category of the 2026 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings, which were released Sept. 23.

The university is tied for the second year at 20th place in the new rankings, which include 135 regional southern universities.

Colleges and universities are evaluated according to 17 ranking factors, including graduation, retention and post-graduation earning rates.

In other U.S. News rankings in the Regional Universities South category, UT Martin is tied for ninth place in the Top Public Schools ranking and is tied for eighth place in the Best Colleges for Veterans ranking. UT Martin ranked alone in 21st place in the Best Value Schools category ranking.

"We're pleased that UT Martin remains one of the top regional and public-regional universities in the South," said **Dr. Yancy Freeman**, university chancellor. "Rankings

tell only part of the story for any college or university, but prospective students and their families sometimes use rankings as one measure of quality. UT Martin remains an excellent value among higher-education institutions."

In the online programs category, UT Martin tied for 46th place in Best Online MBA Programs, tied for 28th place in Best Online MBA Programs for Veterans, tied for 64th place in Best Online Master's in

**Continued on PAGE 5**

## YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

## OSCC raises emergency aid awareness

This year, the UT Martin Office of Student Conduct and Care (OSCC) made significant strides in combating the opioid crisis through education, training and the distribution of lifesaving overdose reversal medications.

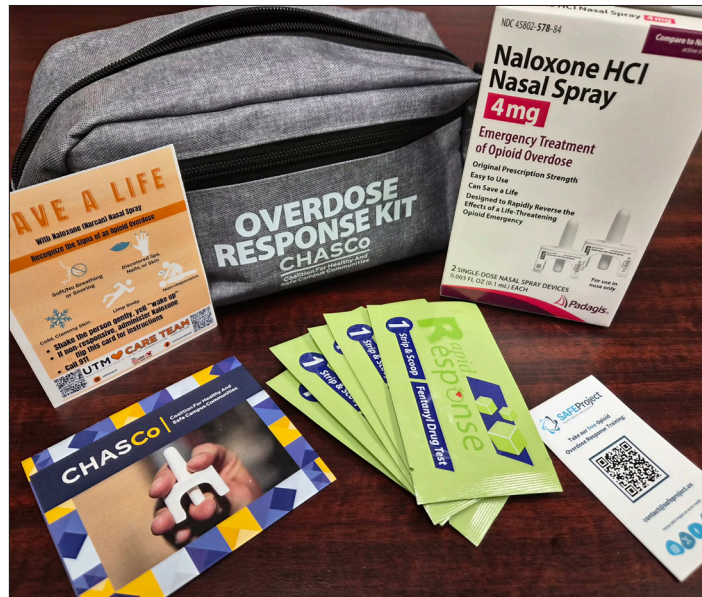
Over the course of seven days during the last week of August, OSCC provided training to 1,200 students, faculty and staff on recognizing the signs of an overdose and how to properly administer Naloxone (Narcan).

During this time, OSCC also distributed more than 1,200 boxes of Naloxone to students, faculty and staff. These efforts were made possible through a generous partnership with the Coalition for Healthy and Safe Campus Communities (CHASCo).

In recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day (Aug. 31), OSCC partnered with Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS), the Weakley County Health Department and the Weakley County Prevention Coalition (WCPC) on Aug. 29 to distribute more than 300 comprehensive overdose prevention kits – which included Fentanyl test strips – during a campus tabling event and SHCS's Taxi Trivia program.

These events helped ensure that individuals at risk or those close to someone at risk had the tools needed to respond and potentially save a life.

As of last January, UT Martin equipped Automated External



Defibrillator (AED) stations on campus with Naloxone. Now, every AED location across the main campus and regional centers includes clearly-labeled Naloxone for emergency use and distribution.

Additionally, Naloxone is available on the resource table outside the OSCC office and in the OSCC office itself on the second floor of the Boling University Center.

This initiative was launched through a collaboration between OSCC, CHASCo, WCPC and the UTM Office of Environmental Health and Safety. The shared goal is to make lifesaving medication easily and immediately accessible to anyone in need.

OSCC and WCPC ensured that clear instructions and quick training were provided during the distribution of Naloxone and overdose kits.

Tennessee's Good Samaritan Law protects individuals who administer Naloxone in good faith. The medication is safe to use even if a person is not actively overdosing, and incorrect administration does not harm the individual. This legal protection encourages the UTM community to act without fear in emergency situations.

If someone notices that Naloxone is missing or expired at a campus AED station, they should report it by calling the OSCC at 731-881-7703 or emailing [utmcareteam@utm.edu](mailto:utmcareteam@utm.edu). AED stations are inspected and restocked monthly to ensure readiness.

For more information about Naloxone availability or to schedule an in-depth training session with WCPC, contact the Office of Student Conduct and Care at [utmcareteam@utm.edu](mailto:utmcareteam@utm.edu) or [rops-wcpc.org](https://www.rops-wcpc.org).

The news at  
[news.utm.edu](https://news.utm.edu)

[UTM ranks among top 20 in U.S. News regional rankings](#)

[UTM Advisory Board discusses enrollment, strategic plan](#)

[UTM Fall Preview Day to be held Oct. 4](#)

UTM MARTIN | NEWS

Upcoming  
Skyhawk  
Home Events

Tuesday, Sept. 30

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

Thursday, Oct. 9

- \*Volleyball vs. Western Illinois, 6 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.
- \*Soccer vs. Little Rock, 7 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field.

Friday, Oct. 10

- \*Volleyball vs. Western Illinois, 4 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Saturday, Oct. 11

- \*Football vs. Western Illinois, 2 p.m., Hardy M. Graham Stadium (Homecoming).

\* - conference competition.

Full athletics schedules can be found at [utmsports.com](https://utmsports.com).

Dates and times are subject to change.



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



# Norris talks about family in Parker Speaker Series



Michele Norris (right photo), an award-winning journalist, New York Times bestselling author, former Washington Post columnist and the first African-American female to host on NPR as co-host of “All Things Considered,” was the guest speaker at the third annual Dr. Henry H. Parker Speaker Series and Legacy Luncheon, held Sept. 26 in the Russell Duncan Ballroom in the Boling University Center. Norris spoke about her family – spending winters with her mother in Minnesota and summers with her father in Alabama as a child – and about her experiences as a journalist. In the left photo, she is shown speaking with Dr. Henri Giles, assistant professor of African American studies and coordinator of the Parker Speaker Series, in a post-speaking interview during the program.

## Faculty, staff can be mentors to UTM students

The Center for Student Engagement has partnered with Mentor Collective to deliver a positive and seamless mentorship experience for UT Martin faculty and staff.

The software matches students with faculty and staff who have had similar academic experiences and can provide support through their first-hand experiences.

The matching process consists of:

- Both mentors and mentees completing a survey detailing their backgrounds, experiences and hopes for a counterpart.
- Mentor Collective creates matches based on what mentees say is most important to them.
- Once matched, both people will decide how they want to connect: text, email,

video call or in-person.

It is recommended that mentors connect with their mentee at least once per month.

This mentorship program will end in May 2026, but people are welcome to stay connected with their mentee after the official end of the program.

Faculty or staff members may register to take part in the program [at this site](#).

Those with questions may contact Kameron Echols, director of the Office of Student Leadership and Campus Culture, at 731-881-1864 or [kechols3@utm.edu](mailto:kechols3@utm.edu). They may also contact Mentor Collective directly at [help@mentorcollective.org](mailto:help@mentorcollective.org) or learn more about the Mentor Experience [at this site](#).

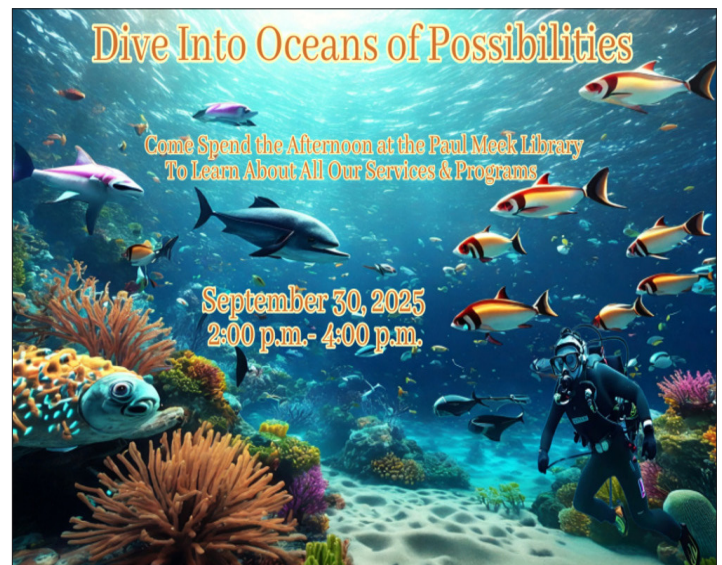
## PML to showcase services, programs

The Paul Meek Library will present its showcase “Dive into Oceans of Possibilities” from 2 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 30.

The library departments and the CommUnity Center, Learning Commons, Center for Teaching and Learning, Information Technology Services and UT Martin Sustainability Center will share all about their services and programs.

The UT Martin scuba club and WUTM FM 90.3 “The Hawk” will be special guests.

For more information, contact Patricia Sanders, PML media and makerspace manager, at 731-881-7063 or [psanders9@utm.edu](mailto:psanders9@utm.edu).





# Skyhawks win first league contest of the season



After starting the 2025 season against three Football Bowl Sub-division opponents and a top-20 Football Championship Sub-division foe, the UTM Skyhawks settled into their Ohio Valley Conference-Big South Football Association schedule, opening that with a 34-10 win over visiting Southeast Missouri on Sept. 27. Chris Franklin, a redshirt sophomore running back from Little Rock, Arkansas, is shown making a run through the SEMO defense.



Jacob Stevenson, a redshirt senior safety from Gulfport, Mississippi, hauls in an interception in the Skyhawk secondary Sept. 26 against Southeast Missouri. Stevenson had a team-high eight tackles in the game against SEMO. UT Martin hopes to claim at least a share of the conference regular-season title for the fifth straight season.

## Keep on food truckin'

Captain Skyhawk and friends enjoy Food Truck Night, held Sept. 26 at the Martin Public Library stage in downtown Martin as part of Family Weekend. Hundreds of people took part in the fun, food and festival atmosphere. Family Weekend is an annual celebration providing a means for students and their families to enjoy the UT Martin campus as well as the city of Martin.



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BY THE RANKINGS

2026 U.S. NEWS BEST COLLEGES RANKINGS

20<sup>TH</sup> *Regional Universities South*

21<sup>ST</sup> *Best Value Schools*

9<sup>TH</sup> *Top Public Schools*

8<sup>TH</sup> *Best Colleges for Veterans*

U.S. NEWS from PAGE 1

Criminal Justice Programs, and tied for 180th place in Best Online Master’s in Education Programs. More than 1,800 online programs were surveyed by U.S. News.

These rankings follow an August announcement that UT Martin was listed as a Best Regional College by The

Princeton Review for the 23rd year in a row. The university was also named earlier this year as a 2025-2026 Military Friendly School by Viqtor.

UT Martin tied its second-highest fall enrollment total in history as 8,101 students are enrolled for the fall 2025 semester at its main campus and six regional centers in Jackson,

Parsons, Ripley, Selmer, Somerville and Springfield in Middle Tennessee.

UT Martin is a primary regional campus in the University of Tennessee System offering 23 undergraduate degree programs that include 142 specialized concentrations and eight graduate degrees featuring 30 specialized

concentrations.

In addition to the main campus and six regional centers, UT Martin Online offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees, including the online Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree for working adults. Learn more at [www.utm.edu](http://www.utm.edu).

Campus Calendar			
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>UTM Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources career fair day, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Russell Duncan Ballroom, Boling University Center.</li><li>Building Coffee and Conversations with Chancellor Yancy Freeman,</li></ul>	3:15 p.m., Norman Campbell Lecture Hall, Room 121 Holt Humanities Building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Domestic Violence Awareness Month self-defense class, 5:30 p.m., Russell Duncan Ballroom, Room 224 Boling University Center (students only).</li></ul>	<b>Monday, Oct. 6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, 4 p.m., 124 Gooch Hall.</li></ul> <b>Tuesday, Oct. 7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects in Research, 3 p.m., 124 Gooch Hall.</li></ul>	<b>Friday, Oct. 10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>125th anniversary celebration kickoff, 10 a.m., Phillip W. Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.</li></ul> <p><i>Events are subject to cancellation; dates, times and sites are subject to change.</i></p>

You Tell Me

- Question** – May 2025 marked 50 years since the Tennessee Mountain Round-Up happened, a successful outdoor concert event held in then-Pacer Stadium and featuring The Charlie Daniels Band and several other Southern rock musical acts. According to the Spirit yearbook, a crowd estimated at more than 5,500 fans turned out for the event. Is there interest in hosting another major outdoor concert in Graham Stadium, given the need to protect the artificial surface?
- Answer** – Yes, there’s interest in hosting a major outdoor concert in Graham Stadium. Booking an appropriate act would depend on finding an act that could schedule the stadium as part of a tour. Booking such an act has been close in recent years, but arrangements fell through on a couple of well-known performers. The turf should accommodate the staging and equipment needed to hold an event similar to what was held May 16, 1975.

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



## Nursing job fair held on campus



Nevaeh Leonard Odom (left), a freshman cell and molecular biology major with a concentration in pharmaceutical science from Millington, is shown gathering information at the nursing job fair held Sept. 16 at the Boling University Center. Gathering that information is Tammie Bell, a regional human resource business partner with West Tennessee Healthcare who also works at West Tennessee Healthcare Volunteer Martin and West Tennessee Healthcare Milan hospitals. Students seeking careers in health care, the sciences or wellness were encouraged to attend the job fair to find out more about their prospective fields.

## Building Conversations and Coffee program continues Oct. 1

The second Building Conversations and Coffee get-together will be held at 3:15 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 1, in the Norman Campbell Lecture Hall in Room 121 Holt Humanities Building.

Chancellor Yancy Freeman will be on hand for an informal hour of casual conversation over coffee.

Freeman said that he plans to visit with faculty

and staff across campus, building-by-building, over the next year to get to know employees better and improve campuswide communications and connections.

The third and final Building Conversations and Coffee event scheduled this semester will be at 3 p.m., Monday, Nov. 17, in Room 101 of the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building.



Freeman

## Skyhawk Spirit Award nominees sought

Nominations for October's Skyhawk Spirit Award or the Skyhawk Innovation Award are being accepted through Friday, Oct. 3.

The Skyhawk Spirit Award began in January 2024 and recognizes a faculty or staff

member who goes above and beyond in creating a positive, supportive and uplifting environment for students and colleagues.

The Skyhawk Innovation Award honors individuals who demonstrate creativity, forward

thinking and problem solving that positively impacts the campus or student experience.

The Spirit Innovation Award must be initiated by employees holding the job titles of supervisor, manager or director.

Nominations should be sent

as letters of recommendation for either award and sent to [skyhawkspiritaward@utm.edu](mailto:skyhawkspiritaward@utm.edu) by Oct. 3.

Information about the August Skyhawk Spirit Award winners can be found on Page 5 of the [Aug. 11 Addenda](#).

### addenda

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