

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Oct. 6, 2025



The annual Homecoming role pull competition got underway Oct. 6 through rainy weather, making the going less than ideal for the participants. The rope pull competition will continue through Oct. 10, when a champion is crowned and bragging rights are held for another year.

Homecoming 2025 schedule announced

The 2025 Homecoming Week is underway through Sunday, Oct. 12, and will feature several events for alumni, students and fans alike along with the football game against OVC-Big South Conference rival Western Illinois on Oct. 11.

Homecoming Week will also serve to kick

off the opening ceremony for the university's 125th anniversary celebration. The opening ceremony will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 10, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center, and is open to the public.

The 125th anniversary celebration will

be held throughout the 2025-26 school year and into next October. The university was established in 1900 as the Hall-Moody Institute, with the cornerstone of the administration building being laid on Oct. 2 of that year. The first classes were held on

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125th anniversary celebration kickoff set for Oct. 10

UT Martin will begin its 125th anniversary celebration with an opening event at 10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 10, in the Phillip W. Watkins Auditorium.

The public is invited to attend and help to begin the year-long celebration of the university's founding as Hall-Moody Institute in 1900. The opening ceremony will be archived

on the university's YouTube account for later viewing.

The program's opening speakers include UT System President Randy Boyd and UT Martin Chancellor Yancy Freeman. Other speakers will highlight different periods of university history and include:

- The Past: Bob Carroll, UT Martin Athletics Hall of

Fame football coach and a 1954 UTM graduate, and Dr. Chandra Alston, the University of Tennessee, and a 1993 UTM graduate;

- The Present: Ashlee Mallon, a junior finance major from Dresden and student trustee to the UT Board of Trustees, and Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn, professor of agricultural engineering

and UT Martin Faculty Senate president;

- The Future: Art Sparks, chair, UT Martin Advisory Board, and a 1976 UTM graduate.

A public reception will immediately follow the program on the Boling University Center North Patio outside Watkins

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at UT Martin has selected **Dr. Kelle Alden**, associate professor of English, as its inaugural Faculty Fellow.

The fellowship will run through the spring and fall 2026 semesters.

Alden was selected by the CTL Quality Enhancement Plan Advisory Committee, which praised her compelling proposal and vision for advancing teaching excellence.

As the first to hold this position, she will play a foundational role in shaping the program for future fellows.

During her fellowship, Alden will launch a proposed series of faculty workshops and pursue research in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.



Alden

This appointment marks a key initiative for the CTL, and applications for the fall 2026 Faculty Fellow position will open in January.

“Dr. Alden’s perspective will bring invaluable insights to our work as we explore how innovative teaching can serve our students’ wide-ranging



Rasool

academic needs,” said **Dr. Adnan Rasool**, director of the CTL. “We are thrilled to support her projects, which align perfectly with our mission and set a high standard for this new fellowship program.”

Alden is also the director of the Hortense Parrish Writing Center.

The news at news.utm.edu

[UTM Alumni Award winners announced](#)

[UTM students to work NFL games in London](#)

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

UTM MARTIN | NEWS

Maturation grant proposals due Oct. 31

The University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF) announced a call for submissions for its 18th annual maturation program.

The UTRF Technology Maturation Grant aims to assist innovators in advancing new technologies on the path to market by awarding up to \$20,000 in direct costs to the highest ranking proposals.

The program is open to researchers, faculty, staff and students across all University of Tennessee campuses and institutes. All proposals are due to the UT Martin Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) by 5 p.m., Oct. 31. Proposals can be emailed to orsp@utm.edu.

Applicants must complete and submit the official UTRF Technology Maturation Grant Proposal form [at this site](#).

Projects must be related to an existing UT

invention disclosure, or a proposal can be accompanied by a new UT invention/creation disclosure. (Visit idea.tennessee.edu to submit a new invention disclosure.)

All proposals should clearly respond to the four questions. Proposals that only generate basic research results should not be submitted.

Applicants should read the application overview and complete the UTRF Technology Maturation Grant Proposal form. Other forms of submission will not be accepted.

The proposal template is limited to two pages, and one page of references and one page of figures may be included as appendices. The complete proposal package must not exceed four pages. No bio or CV should be included.

More information about the maturation grants can be found [at this site](#).

This Week's Skyhawk Home Events

Wednesday, Oct. 8

- Men's basketball, 6 p.m., Navy vs. Orange scrimmage, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

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. Dates and times are subject to change.



WIN UP TO \$20,000 IN FUNDING TO ADVANCE AN INNOVATION WITH COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL

Submit your proposal to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs by 5:00 p.m.

October 31, 2025

Email: orsp@utm.edu

SCAN HERE FOR DETAILS



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

New hires, position people attend Welcome Dinner



New hires and those new to a position on faculty and staff at UT Martin attended the annual Welcome Dinner on Aug. 28 at the Paul Meek Library. Those attending were (front row, l-r) Dr. Maryanna Hudson, Emily Hamlyn, Tammy Stanford, Dr. Houman Hanachi, Dr. Rawan Aqel, Dr. Nick Shuber, Dr. Anita Rogers, Dr. Cayce Batts, Jordan Gardner, Dr. Becky Dykes, Chancellor Yancy Freeman, (second row, l-r) Candice McCloud, Emily Crider, Dr. Debbie Stairs, Dr. Chuck Grigsby-Calage, Dr. Carrie Humphreys, Angie Lamb, Dr. Nancy Buschhaus, Dr. Destin Tucker, Payton Morrison, Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, (third row, l-r) Cassidy Harris, Sam Mayo, Greg Cooper, Dr. Katherine Madden, Dr. Allan Sterbinsky, Audrey Hampton, Eryn Tyner, Corinne Wells, Jennifer Ray, J.C. Burnett-Gordon, (fourth row, l-r) Dr. Pamela Guerrero, Niyasia Jones, Dr. Britt Koehnlein, Dr. Amanda Mansfield, Ginger Horton, Eryn Tucker, Jennifer Hays, Nicholas D'Acquisto, (back row, l-r) Cameron Graham, Dr. John Parr, Autumn Reeves, Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Dr. Amber Moore, Persempathy Harrell, Daphne LaGrone, Deena Smith, Dr. Justin Martin and Ben Graves.

Tenured faculty members honored at dinner



Faculty earning tenure on hand for the Tenure, Promotion and Faculty Awards Dinner held Sept. 9 in the Boling University Center were (l-r) Dr. Ali Seyedkavoosi, Dr. Saman Sargolzaei, Dr. Erik Nordberg, Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee, Dr. Bethany Wolters, Dr. John Cole, Dr. Alison Ellis and Chancellor Yancy Freeman. Not pictured is Dr. Jody Blake.

Faculty award winners honored Sept. 9



Faculty award winners on hand for the Tenure, Promotion and Faculty Awards Dinner held Sept. 9 in the Boling University Center were (l-r) Chancellor Yancy Freeman, Dr. Philip Smartt (Outstanding UTAA Teacher Award), Dr. Saman Sargolzaei (Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award), Dr. Christie Chen (Outstanding Academic Advisor Award), Dr. Tammie Patterson (Outstanding UTAA Teacher Award), Dr. Justin Sims (Coffey Outstanding Teacher Award), Dr. Nathan Howard (Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award) and Dr. Jack Grubaugh (OVC Faculty Commitment to Student Success Award).

Promoted faculty members honored at dinner



Faculty earning promotions on hand for the Tenure, Promotion and Faculty Awards Dinner held Sept. 9 in the Boling University Center were (l-r) Dr. Jason Alexander (professor), Dr. Ali Behfarnia (associate professor), Dr. Verna Baron (associate professor), Dr. Mercan Derafshi (associate professor), Dr. Eatedal Alqusaireen (associate professor), Dr. Alison Ellis (associate professor), Dr. Heidi Huse (professor), Dr. David Carithers (professor) and Chancellor Yancy Freeman.

Chancellor, UT president visit area high schools



Shown are (l-r) Chancellor Yancy Freeman, Kelsea Aslin, Madeline Kilpatrick and UT President Randy Boyd “throwing Skyhawks” on Oct. 2 at Crockett County High School during Boyd’s “Find Your Future” high school tour. The Oct. 2 stops at Crockett County and South Gibson high schools concluded the fall initiative that brought Boyd to 11 high schools and provided opportunities to speak to about 3,500 students across Tennessee about how a UT degree can transform lives. Both UT Martin graduates, Aslin is a UT Extension agent in Madison County who works with 4-H youth development, and Kilpatrick is an Advise Tennessee college advisor at Crockett County High School.

Ashburn to speak at PKP Faculty Lecture event

Dr. Kellie Ashburn, assistant professor of nursing, will present the Fall Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Lecture at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16.

The event will be held in the Lew and Mary Jo Daugherty Tennessee Room (Room 22) of the McCombs Center, and will include a livestream option.

Ashburn’s lecture, “Learning by Doing: the Impact of Experiential Approaches in Higher Education,” will share study results from her doctoral research grounded in Kolb’s Experiential Learning Theory and detail practical applications of tactile learning, particularly in health-science fields.

“Nursing practice has continued to broaden in complexity with expanding treatment options, the development of new health science technologies and the overwhelming deluge of medical



Ashburn

information,” Ashburn said. “While classroom instruction is still an important foundation for learning, students build judgement and confidence through hands-on experience in clinical settings.”

The presentation will highlight the experiential learning program in UT Martin’s nursing program, including the university’s wide range of partners in the West Tennessee health-care community.

Ashburn teaches across classroom and clinical settings, advises nursing students and is actively engaged in curriculum development and educational research.

Her scholarly interests focus on experiential learning strategies, the development of clinical judgment in undergraduate nursing students and preparation for licensure exams.

Ashburn has presented her work at regional and national conferences and is the recipient of the National League for Nursing Education Scholarship Award, as well as the Rising Star Nurse Leader Award from the Tennessee Action Coalition.

In addition to her faculty role, she continues to practice as a registered nurse at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Union City, ensuring that her teaching

and research remain grounded in current clinical practice.

Established on May 21, 1971, UT Martin’s Chapter 127 of Phi Kappa Phi was an early example of the society’s presence at a regional comprehensive university. The international honor society inducts more than 25,000 students, graduate students, faculty and staff each year on more than 325 campuses across the United States, its territories and the Philippines.

The Oct. 16 event is free and open to the public. Those unable to attend in person may join the livestream [at this site](#), and a recording will be available at this same link following the program.

For more information, contact Dr. Erik Nordberg, Phi Kappa Phi program chair, at 731-881-7070, or visit [Phi Kappa Phi’s Runway event page](#).

HOMECOMING from PAGE 1

Sept. 2, 1901.

A special book commemorating the university’s 125th anniversary is on sale now and will be available throughout Homecoming Week. Information about the book can be found at alumni.utm.edu/125book.

Information about UT Martin’s 125th anniversary celebration can be found at alumni.utm.edu/celebration.

The Alumni Awards program, held in conjunction with the Chancellor’s Brunch, will be held at 9:15 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Paul Meek Library. Admission is by invitation only.

Events for the 2025 Homecoming Week include:

- Tuesday, Oct. 7: Hawk Walk: History of UTM Building Tour, noon; rope pull (Bracket 2), 4 p.m., Pacer Pond; Flight Crew lip sync contest, 7 p.m., Festival Park, downtown Martin.
- Wednesday, Oct. 8: Homecoming court elections (students).
- Thursday, Oct. 9: Rope pull (alternate rain day, if needed), 4 p.m., Pacer Pond; second annual St. John’s Community



Amid the pageantry that is Homecoming, there is a football game to be played, as the Skyhawks face conference rival Western Illinois at 2 p.m. Oct. 11. In the above photo, head coach Jason Simpson and the team come off the field after a 34-10 conference-opening win over Southeast Missouri on Sept. 27.

Services chili cookoff, 5 p.m., Pacer Pond; pyramid and pep rally competition, 7 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center; NPHC Block Party, 7 p.m., Veterans Park; BAC Council Meet and Greet, 10 p.m., Dunagan Alumni Center.

- Friday, Oct. 10: UTM 125th anniversary opening ceremony, 10 a.m., Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center; rope pull championship, 3

- Saturday, Oct. 11: 22nd annual Empty Bowls event, 8 a.m., Martin Public Library stage; Rotaract/Phi Eta Sigma/SGA can sculpture contest, 9 a.m., the quad; Alpha 50th Anniversary History and Legacy Program, 9:06 a.m., Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center; Chancellor’s Homecoming Brunch and Alumni Awards program, 9:15 a.m., Paul Meek Library, by invitation only; 19th annual UTM football alumni tailgate, 10 a.m., Hardy M. Graham Stadium; Quad City, 10:30 a.m., the quad; UTM Football Skyhawk Walk, 11 a.m., through the quad; football vs. Western Illinois, 2 p.m., Hardy M. Graham Stadium; NPHC Homecoming Step Show, 7 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center; Trail After Dark alumni party, 9 p.m., Ava Manor.

- Sunday, Oct. 12: UTM Homecoming Brunch, 10:30 a.m., Skyhawk Dining Hall, Boling University Center.

More information about the 2025 Homecoming Week, including lodging information, can be found at alumni.utm.edu/homecoming.

Campus Calendar

Tuesday, Oct. 7 • Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects in Research, 3 p.m., 124 Gooch Hall. Thursday, Oct. 9 • General faculty meeting, 3 p.m., Norman Campbell	Lecture Hall, 121 Holt Humanities Building. Friday, Oct. 10 • 125th anniversary celebration kickoff, 10 a.m., Phillip W. Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.	Thursday, Oct. 16 • Clerical and support staff coffee with the chancellor, 9 a.m., 206 Boling University Center. • Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Lecture, Dr. Kellie Ashburn, 6 p.m., Daugherty Tennessee	Room, McCombs Center. Tuesday, Oct. 28 • Featured Faculty Scholar Dr. Adnan Rasool. 4 p.m., Paul Meek Library North Reading Room. <i>Dates, times and sites are subject to change.</i>
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You Tell Me

- **Question** – The UTM cafeteria is officially called the Skyhawk Dining Hall. Upon entering the facility, however, there are virtually no decorations that show UTM colors, photos of the campus or students, Captain Skyhawk, etc. The back of each chair has UTM written on it, but there’s really not much else to build UTM community or school spirit inside the dining hall. Is this something that can be considered in the future?
- **Answer** – The contractual partnership with Sodexo supports their branded concepts; however, the university will work with Sodexo to incorporate more UTM colors and spirit in the Skyhawk Dining Hall decorations.

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

Faculty Development Grant Program application deadline is Nov. 1

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) provides funding for internal awards designed to assist UT Martin faculty with development activities.

The Faculty Development Grant Program provides three rounds of funding annually for regular, full-time faculty.

The following changes have been made to the Faculty Development Grant Program guidelines effective last August:

- Faculty members are limited to receiving only one faculty development grant award per year (fall-spring-summer cycle) to ensure equitable distribution of funding resources, allowing a greater number of faculty members the opportunity to benefit from professional development support. The committee seeks to promote broad participation and enhance the overall impact of the grant program across the institution.

- The spring cycle deadline has been changed to Nov. 1 (previously Nov. 15).

Applications must have all of the required elements, including the applicant's curriculum vitae, included in the application packet to be considered by the committee.

The next application deadline is Saturday, Nov. 1.

Available funding will dictate the number of awards for each round. The Dynamic Form application and program details are available on the [ORSP SharePoint site](#).

Here is a list of development grant categories, maximum award for each category and a summary of approved activities for each grant category:

- Professional development, \$1,500, instructional improvement activities; course and curriculum development; attendance at classes, workshops, conferences, pre-conference sessions or seminars related to discipline, research or teaching and learning.
- Conference presentation, \$1,500, presentation at a conference, workshop or

seminar; poster or demonstration exhibit; panelist.

- International travel, \$1,000, faculty research work or presentation at an international conference; group leader may apply for activities in a non-native English-speaking country for up to 10 faculty members with limit of \$1,000 per member (only one group travel funded per year); may be used to supplement activities during a Reagan Leave period.

- Research, \$2,000, support for preliminary studies and research leading to external grant proposals.

- Creative projects, \$2,000, workshops, conferences, visiting artist exhibits, visiting guest speakers or experts or similar activities hosted on the UTM campus; book manuscripts, publications, performances or exhibitions developed by UTM faculty.

For more information, contact the ORSP office at 731-881-7015.

125th KICKOFF from PAGE 1

Auditorium. Copies of the new 125th anniversary photo books will be on sale and available for pre-sale pickup. The purchase link for the book is [at this site](#).

On Oct. 2, 1900, the cornerstone was laid for the administration building, the institution's first building, and on Sept. 2, 1901, the first Hall-Moody Institute classes were held.

The institute would become

the Hall-Moody Normal School in 1917 and Hall-Moody Junior College in 1922. In 1927, the state assumed ownership of the campus and the name was changed to UT Junior College before becoming the University of Tennessee Martin Branch in 1951 and, finally, the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1967.

Learn more about the 125th celebration [at this site](#).



IRB, IACUC meetings announced

The Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects in Research will meet at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 7, in 124 Gooch Hall.

The next IRB meeting will be

at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 4.

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee met Oct. 6. Its next meeting will be at 4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 3, in 124 Gooch Hall.

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

addenda

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