

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Oct. 27, 2025

Trunk or Treat brings out community kids



Area children dressed up to take part in the fifth annual Trunk or Treat Halloween event Oct. 25 in the Pacer Pond parking lot. The UTM Office of Residence Life and Housing and the Center for Student Engagement provided the Martin community with a fun and safe place to celebrate Halloween from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Students, staff and organizations sponsored a parking spot and handed out candy for the kids.

UTM, UT Extension to sponsor ag workshop

The 2025 growing season marks yet another challenging year for Tennessee's row crop production, with high input costs, low commodity prices and drought impacting overall profitability.

To assist farmers with financial management, University of Tennessee Extension and UT Martin are partnering to offer "Financing Your Operation in 2026: West Tennessee Row Crop Workshop."

This free educational program is open to

the public and will be held twice on Dec. 1. The first session is scheduled from 8 to 11 a.m. in the Champions Club of Hardy M. Graham Stadium. It will be held again from 5 to 8 p.m. at the West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson at 605 Airways Blvd.

Applicable strategies and timely information on a variety of farm financial topics will be covered, including:

- Vendor financing

- Debt carryover
- Consolidating loans
- Share and cash rental agreements
- Machinery costs and values
- Seed, fertilizer and chemical prices
- Selecting crop insurance

"Challenges within the row crop industry have resulted in substantial monetary losses in consecutive years for many corn, cotton, soybean and wheat farmers," said Aaron

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

The October edition of VIP Jackson magazine included a photo of UT Martin students Connor Butts and Shelby Davis, who assisted with the 14th annual Celebrity Golf Classic, hosted by the Jackson-Madison County African American Chamber of Commerce.

The tournament was held Sept. 23 at the Bent Tree Golf Club as a fundraiser for the

chamber's Follow Me Into Business program.

Dr. Dexter Davis, professor of sport business, takes students to the tournament to work as volunteers and to gain event-management experience.

Davis recently brought a group of students to London to work at NFL games being played there earlier this month.



Davis

The news at news.utm.edu

[UT Martin to host Fall Preview Day on Nov. 1](#)

[UTM to host 19th Young Writers Conference](#)

[Bellwethers art exhibition opens Oct. 20](#)

[UT Martin receives mobile health unit](#)

UT MARTIN | NEWS

'Navigating Difficult Conversations' starts Oct. 28

The UT Martin Office of Ombuds Services, led by **Merry Brown**, is hosting a two-part training series, "Navigating Difficult Conversations."

Conflict is a normal part of working and learning together. When addressed well, it can strengthen relationships, deepen trust and spark collaboration.

This interactive series helps faculty and staff build confidence and learn practical steps to prepare for, initiate, and navigate difficult conversations with clarity and respect.

Aligned with the People core pillar of UTM's 2025-2030



Brown

Strategic Plan, this training supports the university's shared commitment to fostering a supportive campus community where all can thrive through

open communication and mutual understanding.

Part 1 of "Navigating Difficult Conversations" will be facilitated by UTM Ombudsperson Merry Brown from noon to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 28, in Room 230 of the Boling University Center.

Part 2 will be held from noon to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 4, in the same location.

This program is open to all UTM faculty and staff. Attendees should bring a lunch and join the conversation.

To register for both sessions, visit [this website](#).

Faculty Leave Program application deadline set

The Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Program is designed to enable participants to become more effective teachers and scholars by engaging in a variety of academic or renewal experiences.

Tenured faculty members with six or more years of full-time service at UT Martin are eligible. A faculty member who has previously been awarded a leave must wait a minimum of three years from the end of a previous leave before applying for a subsequent leave.

Full details are available at

the [Hal and Alma Reagan Leave SharePoint Site](#).

Applications for Reagan Leave in the 2026-27 academic year are due to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs by

Monday, Feb. 2, 2026.

For more information, contact the [Office of Research and Sponsored Programs \(ORSP\)](#) in 124 Gooch Hall at 731-881-7015 or orsp@utm.edu.

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

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

Wednesday, Oct. 29

- Women's basketball vs. UT Southern (exhib.), 5:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Friday, Oct. 31

- *Equestrian vs. South Dakota State, time tba, Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

Saturday, Nov. 1

- Equestrian vs. South Carolina, time tba, Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

Friday, Nov. 7

- *Volleyball vs. Southern Indiana, 4 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

* - conference competition.

Full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com.

Dates and times are subject to change.

SGA has Legislative Council Appreciation Dinner



Those taking part in the Student Government Association Legislative Council Appreciation Dinner on Sept. 29 at the Dunagan Alumni Center included (l-r) Chancellor Yancy Freeman, first lady Rafielle Freeman, SGA Speaker of the Senate Lacy Collier, SGA President Bailey Parker, SGA Chief Standards Officer Libby Borowiak, SGA Vice President Ella Self, SGA Student Wellness Chair Paris Hodge, SGA Multicultural Affairs Chair Tamera Harden, SGA Adviser John Abel and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Andy Lewter.

Deadline to apply for ORSP funding is Nov. 1

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

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

There have been some changes made to the Faculty Development Grant Program guidelines, effective August 2025:

- 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 from Nov. 15 to Nov. 1.

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

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](#).

The categories of funding application, the maximum amount provided in each category and approved activities for each category are:

- Professional development, \$1,500, instructional improvement activities; course and curriculum development; and 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; and panelist.

- International travel, \$1,000, faculty research work or presentation at an international conference; group leader may apply for activities in 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 UT Martin Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at 731-881-7015 or visiting the website at www.utm.edu/orsp.

UTM students take part in TVA Investment Challenge



Students from UT Martin's TVA Investment Challenge Program participated in the annual Student-Managed Investment Fund Consortium (SMIFC) Conference held in Chicago on Oct. 9-10. During the conference, the students presented their student-managed investment portfolio in the poster competition, highlighting the UTM Tennessee Valley Authority Fund's annual performance, portfolio holdings, investment allocation and investment philosophy. Throughout the event, students engaged with competition judges, fellow participants from other universities and industry professionals, discussing portfolio strategies and fielding questions about their investment approach and results. Pictured are (l-r) Charlie Deal, a junior finance major from Union City; Hope Binkley, a junior finance and accounting major from Kingston Springs; Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance; Samantha George, a senior finance major from Union City; and Kayla Potete, a graduate student from Waynesboro.

Campus Calendar

Tuesday, Oct. 28

- Navigating Difficult Conversations (Part 1 of 2), facilitated by Merry Brown, UTM ombudsperson, noon-1 p.m., 230 Boling University Center.
- Featured Faculty Scholar Dr. Adnan Rasool. 4 p.m., Paul Meek Library North Reading Room.

Friday, Oct. 31

- Candy handout for trick-or-treaters with Dr. Yancy Freeman Sr. and Rafielle Freeman, 4-5:30 p.m.,

Dunagan Alumni Center.

Sunday, Nov. 2

- Daylight saving time ends, 2 a.m. Set clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night.
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, 4 p.m., 124 Gooch Hall.

Tuesday, Nov. 4

- Navigating Difficult Conversations (Part 2 of 2), facilitated by Merry Brown, UTM ombudsperson, noon-1 p.m., 230 Boling University Center.

- Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects Research, 4 p.m., 124 Gooch Hall.

Wednesday, Nov. 5

- UT Naifeh Center Leadership Program Lunch and Learn, facilitated by Dr. Emalee Buttrey, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Skyhawk Dining Hall, Boling University Center.

Thursday, Nov. 6

- Legacy Series featuring James E. Cherry, 6 p.m., Paul Meek Library.

Monday, Nov. 10

- ROTC Veterans Week 5K Walk/Run, 6 a.m., Brian Brown Greenway Trail next to Blake's at Southern Milling, no fee or registration required.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

- Navigating Difficult Conversations for Managers (Part 1 of 2), facilitated by Merry Brown, UTM ombudsperson, 3-5 p.m., 231 Boling University Center.

Events are subject to cancellation; dates, times and sites are subject to change.

Read more UT Martin news at news.utm.edu!

October Skyhawk awards announced



Waterfield

This month’s recipients of the Skyhawk Innovation Award was **Mykaela Waterfield**, while **Shawn Dye**, **Payton Morris** and **Will Turner** each received the Skyhawk Spirit Award.

Waterfield, director of enrollment communications and operations, received the Skyhawk Innovation Award because of the way she has revolutionized university systems through her leadership in implementing and expanding the Slate CRM platform to serve undergraduate, graduate and international admissions.

Dye, a success counselor on the Student Success Center staff, was nominated for the award because of her commitment beyond success counseling appointments. According to her nomination letter, she partners with campus departments and community organizations to create unique, engaging and meaningful experiences for her students.

“One example of this is her GENS 101 class project, where she organized students to write Christmas cards for local nursing homes, instilling not only a sense of community engagement but also the importance of compassion and service,” the letter states. “Initiatives like these showcase her creativity and her ability to inspire students to think beyond themselves.”

Morrison, administrative



Dye

assistant for the Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development, received the award because of her lasting impact on multiple departments and teams.

“Payton has taken the initiative to lead training sessions for other administrators, sharing her expertise and knowledge concerning DASH,” her letter of nomination states. “She has proven to be a vital resource in coordinating office functions for ORSP and university outreach offices.”

Turner, manager of the Office of Information Technology Services, received the award because he seeks to maximize resources by securing the best deals on hardware and software, according to his letter of nomination.

“Will exemplifies a dedication to the educational mission of the campus through his efforts to improve and maintain the campus network infrastructure to meet the needs of students, staff and faculty,” the letter states. “Will demonstrates forward thinking in designing solutions that are scalable to meet the ever-expanding needs resulting from technological advancements and growth in our student enrollment.”

Each Skyhawk Spirit Award recipient will receive a \$50 cash award and a commemorative plaque. Recipients of the Skyhawk Innovation Award will



Morrison

receive a \$250 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

The Skyhawk Spirit Award and Skyhawk Innovation Award began in January 2024, and both awards seek to recognize employee contributions that exceed expectations for performance.

All regular full- and part-time faculty and staff up to the level of director are eligible to receive Spirit Awards. Independent contractors, temporary employees, volunteers and executive-level staff who report directly to the chancellor and serve as a member of the chancellor’s cabinet are not eligible for the Skyhawk Spirit Award.

The Skyhawk Innovation Award seeks to recognize employees who achieve beyond the status quo who implement an idea, initiative, process or system that improves efficiencies



Turner

or outcomes.

Criteria for the awards include:

- Performance substantially beyond expectation on a specific assignment, task or goal
- Contributions that have a significant impact on department or university objectives
- Extraordinary efforts above and beyond the normal responsibilities of the position
- An employee who uses initiative and creativity to solve a challenging problem.

Letters of nomination should be sent to skyhawkspiritawards@utm.edu. Nominations for the month of November are due in by Nov. 7. Nominations for each month are due by the first Friday of the month.

Skyhawk Spirit Awards and Skyhawk Innovation Awards are coordinated through the UTM Office of Human Resources.

November 2025						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

'Phun with Physics' to be held Oct. 30 at Paul Meek Library

The Society of Physics Students, the Department of Chemistry and Physics and the Paul Meek Library will present an evening of "Phun with Physics" at 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30.

The program explores different aspects of the physical world through demonstrations of the

three main branches of physics: mechanics, electromagnetism and thermodynamics.

See the forces that shape the world and learn through hands-on exploration and demonstrations.

Visit [the event page on Runway](#) for more information.

Fall back: DST ends Nov. 2

Daylight saving time for 2025 will come to an end in the United States at 2 a.m. local time, Sunday, Nov. 2. People are asked to "fall back" by setting their clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

Nov. 2 will be a 25-hour day, as the hour from 1 to 2 a.m. will be repeated, giving people an extra hour of sleep. UT Martin and all other areas of the Central Time Zone will fall back to Central Standard Time, moving out of Central Daylight Time.

Daylight saving time will return to the U.S. at 2 a.m. local time, Sunday, March 8, 2026, when areas that observe DST will "spring forward," moving their clocks ahead one hour.

UT Martin, in conjunction with University of Tennessee Extension, will host a "Financing Your Operation in 2026: West Tennessee Row Crop Workshop." This free educational program is open to the public and will be held twice on Monday, Dec. 1. The aim of the workshop is to assist farmers with financial management.



AG WORKSHOP from PAGE 1

Smith, Extension economist and interim assistant dean of UT Extension. "As we finish harvest in 2025 and look ahead to the upcoming growing season, we

want to equip farmers with the knowledge necessary to navigate financial challenges and be in a position to obtain the credit required to plant crops in 2026."

Complimentary meals will

be provided and registration is required.

Those interested can sign up for the workshop in Martin by visiting [at this site](#) or the workshop in Jackson by visiting

[this site](#).

For more information about the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, visit utia.tennessee.edu.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – How is the cell tower located in the parking lot next to the steam plant used?

• **Answer** – The tower was built in 2012, is university/state property, and replaced the original tower that once stood in the parking lot next to the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building. Several entities, both university and local, use the tower because of its location in the city. Among those using the tower is WUTM-FM, which has its transmitter and antenna on the tower, along with the university two-way communications system for public safety, maintenance and others. Several years ago, the Tennessee Department of Safety added a repeater on the site, which is the smaller building to the left of the main building. The system is part of the Tennessee Advanced Communications Network (TCAN), which allows state public safety officials to essentially talk to anyone in the state. (<https://www.tn.gov/safety/tacn.html>) In addition, several amateur radio repeaters are located on the tower, including W4UTM, the primary two-meter repeater. The amateur radio systems are part of the university's emergency communications plan and supported by local amateur radio operators.

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

UTM Donor Appreciation Luncheon held Sept. 23



The UT Martin Division of University Advancement and Chancellor Yancy Freeman hosted an appreciation luncheon Sept. 23 at the Dunagan Alumni Center for donors with more than 40 consecutive years of giving to UT Martin. Pictured are (front row, l-r) Vicki Vantrease, Cathy Dunagan, Linda Crider, Janice Noble, Mary Beard, Aloha Prather, Dianne Austin, Jeanna Wright, (second row, l-r) Dr. Nick Dunagan, Jane Yarbrow, Carolyn Gresham, Len Solomons, Judy Rayburn, Dr. Bill Austin, Earl Wright, Dr. Yancy Freeman, (back row, l-r) Steve Vantrease, John Bucy, Jerry Carpenter, Bob Carroll, Dr. William Solomons and Dr. Bob Beard.

UT Board of Trustees meets Oct. 23-24

UT Martin was represented at the fall meetings of the UT Board of Trustees, Oct. 23-24, in Knoxville. Among other business, the UT System's proposed five-year strategic plan was reviewed by the board. The Be One UT 2030 Strategic Plan focuses on strengthening access, driving research and innovation, fueling Tennessee's workforce and building stronger communities. Pictured at the board meeting is Chancellor Yancy Freeman (center) visiting with UT Chattanooga Chancellor Lori Mann Bruce (left) and Carey Whitworth, UT vice president of government relations and advocacy.



addenda

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