

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Nov. 10, 2025



Keough



Butler



Goel

CBGA dean candidates hold forums

Candidates for the position of dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs had interviews and held open forums last week in Watkins Auditorium at the Boling University Center to introduce themselves to UT Martin faculty, staff and the community.

Forums for all three candidates were recorded and are available online [at this site](#), along with biographical information for the candidates.

The three candidates were:

- **Dr. Shawn M. Keough** (pronounced “KEY-oh”). Keough had a public forum Nov. 3. He is the assistant dean and professor of management for the Emporia State University School of Business and Technology in Emporia, Kansas.

In his current position, Keough oversees 22 full-time faculty for the AACSB-accredited business school. He has held teaching and administrative positions at Emporia State since 2014.

Keough holds two Associate of Arts degrees from Arkansas State University-Beebe; a bachelor’s degree from Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas; a Master of Business Administration degree from Emporia State; and a doctorate from Mississippi State University.

- **Dr. Frank C. Butler**. Butler had his public forum Nov. 4. He is a tenured full professor and the Richard X. Zhang Endowed Professor of Business at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Including his current position, Butler has nearly two decades of higher education experience that covers strategic planning, accreditation leadership, academic governance and entrepreneurship program direction.

Butler holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Georgia and a doctorate from Florida State University.

- **Dr. Lakshmi C. Goel** (pronounced “LOCK-shmee go-ELL”). Goel had her public forum Nov. 5. She is dean for the Al Akhawayn University School of Business in Ifrane, Morocco.

As dean, Goel led development of the school’s 2025-30 strategic plan, led the AACSB accreditation process, and has responsibility for faculty and staff recruitment, retention and development.

Goel holds doctorate and master’s degrees from the University of Houston. She also earned master’s and bachelor’s degrees from the University of Pune and the University

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Provost candidates to visit campus

Three candidate finalists for the position of provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs will interview and hold public forums at UT Martin on Nov. 11, 17 and 20.

Finalist names and biographical information will be shared 24 hours before each candidate’s campus visit.

The first candidate was on campus Nov. 10; the second candidate will be on campus Monday, Nov. 17; and the third candidate

will be on campus Thursday, Nov. 20.

The public forums for each candidate will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Philip W. Watkins Auditorium of the Ed and Carolyn Boling University Center.

For those unable to attend, all forums will be recorded and made available online following the conclusion of the final session. Feedback opportunities will be provided once the interviews begin.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Faculty and staff from the Paul Meek Library provided a virtual presentation during the 2025 Tenn-Share Showcase.

“Unwinding Reliance on Print Resources: Creating Space for a 21st Century

Collaborative Commons through Strategic Collection Review” included Ari Claros, copy cataloger and stacks maintenance; Hannah Crawford, tech services supervisor; Bridget Whitt,

acquisitions and collection development librarian; and library dean Dr. Erik Nordberg.

Tenn-Share is Tennessee’s purchasing consortium for more than 600 academic, school, public and special libraries.



Nordberg



Crawford



Whitt

Holiday brunch set for Dec. 18

Chancellor Yancy Freeman Sr. and the Staff Council invite exempt and non-exempt staff to attend the Chancellor’s Holiday Brunch on Thursday, Dec. 18.

Those attending should RSVP by Dec. 8 for this event [at this site](#) and use their user name and

password.

Participants will meet in the Duncan Ballroom in the Boling University Center from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for food, fellowship, trivia and music.

This year’s theme is “It’s a Skyhawk Christmas Morning.”

Participants should feel free to wear their favorite PJs or Christmas shirt.

In the spirit of giving, there will be a collection of items for residents of local nursing homes. A collection box will be placed near the tree for donations.



CHANCELLOR'S
Holiday Brunch

IT'S A SKYHAWK CHRISTMAS MORNING

DEC. 18TH
10:30AM
RSVP ON
RUNWAY BY
DECEMBER 8TH

WHERE TRADITIONS ARE MADE,
PJS ARE OPTIONAL, AND SKYHAWK SPIRIT IS REQUIRED

JOIN US IN THE UNIVERSITY CENTER BALLROOM
FOR FOOD, FUN, AND SKYHAWK FELLOWSHIP!



DONATIONS
Welcome

ITEM WISHLIST

LOTION
SOCKS
COMB/BRUSH SET
TISSUES
LIP BALM
LARGE PRINT WORD SEARCH BOOK
WET WIPES
COLORING BOOKS
COLORING SUPPLIES
JIG-SAW PUZZLES

PLEASE BRING ANY DONATIONS TO
THE UC BALLROOM ON DECEMBER 18TH

ALL DONATIONS ARE GOING TO
LOCAL NURSING HOMES

The news at news.utm.edu

[UTM launches new Center for Southern Art](#)

[19 UTM graduates accepted to veterinary schools](#)

[ROTC, Veterans Services to host Veterans Week events](#)

UTM MARTIN | NEWS

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

Thursday, Nov. 13

- *Volleyball vs. Tennessee State, 6 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Friday, Nov. 14

- *Volleyball vs. Tennessee State, 4 p.m., Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

Saturday, Nov. 15

- *Football vs. Charleston Southern, 1 p.m., Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

Sunday, Nov. 16

- Women’s basketball vs. Fisk, 2 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Tuesday, Nov. 25

- Men’s basketball vs. Brescia, 6 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Sunday, Nov. 30

- Women’s basketball vs. Oakwood, 2 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

* - conference competition.

Full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com.

Dates and times are subject to change.

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



During the “UT Voices” panel portion of the Well Informed event, participants discuss social media and meaningful connections, featuring (l-r) Dr. Allison Ford, program director for Child and Adolescent Fellowship, Department of Psychiatry, UT Health Science Center; Michaela Gallian, senior mass media and strategic communication major from Waynesboro and a wellness representative; and Hannah Stewart, assistant director of marketing, UTM Office of University Relations.

Biannual ‘Well Informed’ event comes to UTM

UT Martin hosted the University of Tennessee System’s biannual “Well Informed” wellness series Oct. 14 in the Boling University Center, with Dr. Jessi Gold, UT System chief wellness officer, serving as the event’s host.

The Well Informed wellness series fosters conversation about critical wellness issues, equipping UT System faculty, staff and students with knowledge through expert keynote speakers and panel discussions.

In order to reach audiences across the UT System, the Well Informed series rotates among the UT System campuses in the fall and spring semesters, with UT Martin being the second of the five main UT campuses to host the series. The inaugural event was held at UT Chattanooga in spring

2025, which focused on opioids, overdose and prevention.

The event at UT Martin focused on social health, loneliness and building true and meaningful relationships. One of the areas covered during these discussions was social media. Gold commented on the reasoning behind this coverage.

“Our students, like so many across the world, struggle with loneliness,” she said. “We talked about social media’s role in particular, incorporating some tips on how to integrate it into your life and not lose connection because of it.”

Keynote speakers included Diana Chao and Lisa Smartt, also featuring an address from **Chancellor Yancy Freeman**, a panel discussion and speakers from across the UT System.

Chao is the founder and executive director of Letters



Castleman

to Strangers, a global youth-for-youth mental health nonprofit. Chao connected with participants virtually, incorporating actionable strategies for maintaining mental wellbeing while sharing her personal story and those of others.

During the month of October, the UT System has launched systemwide Letters to Strangers campaign, inviting

students, faculty and staff to write handwritten letters to strangers in need. As a part of the Well Informed series, UT Martin hosted a pop-up Letters to Strangers event on Oct. 14 on the Boling University Center North Patio.

Smartt is an author and wellness advocate living in West Tennessee, widely known for her humor and engaging speaking style. Smartt spoke with event participants about building healthy relationships and the impact of human connection.

Allison Castleman, director of Student Health and Counseling Services, spoke on the strengths of this event.

“The speakers represented diverse viewpoints, showing positives and negatives of social media and how to turn those interactions into meaningful connection,” she said.

Speed bumps added to recycling center

Speed bumps are being placed inside the UTM Recycling Facility at the north end of Moody Avenue.

The speed bumps are being added as a safety feature to slow traffic entering and

exiting the facility gate.

Those visiting the recycling facility can help keep the facility safe by observing safe driving habits and traveling slowly when entering and exiting the gate.

The addition of the speed bumps, combined with safe driving, will help to assure the safety of those who participate in recycling and others driving into and out of the recycling center.

Veterans Week to feature several events at UTM

Veterans Week at UT Martin takes place Nov. 10-14, and various events are being hosted to honor military veterans.

These events will be hosted by UT Martin's Army ROTC program and Veteran Services, along with the nonprofit organization Rolling Thunder, which works to spread awareness of the POW/MIA issue.

The official Veterans Day observance is Nov. 11.

The Skyhawk Battalion cadets have organized the UT Martin Veterans Day Ceremony, which will take place at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 11 in Watkins Auditorium.

The ceremony will include comments from **Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch**, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, and **Lt. Col. Robert Hawkins**, UT Martin and Murray State University professor of military science, along with a color guard presentation and performances of the national anthem and military branch music.

Other events this week include:

- At 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 12, the Veterans Walk will begin

at the Boling University Center military memorial and will end at the Capt. Brent L. Morel Memorial Bridge along the Brian Brown Greenway.

This walk is to honor current service members as well as UT Martin alumnus Marine Capt. Brent L. Morel, who was killed in combat in Iraq in 2004.

- The Skyhawk Battalion will host the annual Veterans Bowl flag football game at 6 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 13, at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

The game will highlight the values of teamwork, discipline and resilience that unite soldiers and veterans, and reinforce community connection and morale.

- At 1 p.m., Friday, Nov. 14, the Skyhawk Battalion will visit the W.D. Manning Tennessee State Veterans Home in Humboldt to recognize and engage with veterans in the local community. ROTC cadets will serve cake and refreshments, distribute appreciation items, and exchange stories with those who served before them, emphasizing the Skyhawk Battalion's dedication to



People are shown taking part in last year's Veterans Walk along University Drive.

respect, service and community outreach as they learn from military veterans from previous generations.

Also, as part of Veterans Week observances, on Saturday, Nov. 15, the UT Martin Skyhawks will host Charleston Southern in a Military Appreciation football game at 1 p.m. in Hardy M.

Graham Stadium. Admission for active-duty military and veterans is free.

The university will also reveal a POW/MIA Chair during the game, which is a symbolic display of an empty chair to honor service members who are prisoners of war, missing or killed in action.

CBGA DEAN from PAGE 1

of Mumbai, respectively, both located in India.

The successful candidate will succeed Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi as dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs. Tootoonchi was named dean in April 2020 and retired earlier this year.

Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, dean of graduate studies and professor of agriculture, is serving as interim dean during the search.

The successful candidate will lead UT Martin's own AACSB-accredited programs, including accounting, economics, finance,

marketing, management and information systems.

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide, held by 6% of business programs globally.

This leadership opportunity comes as the university has secured approval and funding to construct a new state-of-the-art Business Administration Building, with completion expected in 2030.

The position is expected to be filled by the end of 2025.

NOVEMBER 3 - NOVEMBER 25

THANKSGIVING CAPTAIN'S PANTRY DRIVE

ACCEPTING:

APPLESAUCE, CANNED FISH CHICKEN, CRACKERS, FRUIT, GRANOLA BARS, INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, MEALS IN A BOX, PASTA, PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY, RICE, SHELF-STABLE AND POWDERED MILK, SOUP, STEW, AND CHILI, WHOLE GRAIN CEREAL.

**PAUL MEEK LIBRARY
MAKERSPACE/DISCOVERY
HUB**

**FOR MORE INFO:
CONTACT MS. PAT AT
PSANDER9@UTM.EDU**

UTM Research Series focuses on 125th anniversary

What is a quasiquicentennial? Join the Paul Meek UT Martin Research Series for a special program celebrating UT Martin's 125th anniversary at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18, in the Special Collections Reading Room of the Paul Meek Library.

This event, "UT Martin at 125: Museum Exhibit and Book Launch," marks the debut of a new exhibit and book publication commemorating the university's quasiquicentennial milestone.

Presenters **Sam Richardson** and **Karen Elmore** from the library's Special Collections department, along with **Nathan Morgan** from the Office of University Relations, will share insights from their research for the anniversary book and exhibit.

Their work took them deep into the university archives, campus administrative files and



Elmore

local community collections to uncover rare photos, historic documents and personal stories that trace UT Martin's roots back to 1900 and the founding of the Hall-Moody Institute.

The exhibit highlights captivating moments from the university's history, featuring vintage campus photographs, cherished artifacts and memorabilia from notable alumni, including legendary basketball coach Pat Head



Morgan

Summitt as well as original costumes of beloved mascots Pacer Pete and Pace-Her Polly.

The team's new 128-page, richly illustrated book, "The University of Tennessee at Martin," was published in October by Arcadia Publishing.

Copies will be available for purchase at the event, with a portion of proceeds benefiting the Special Collections department.

The UT Martin Research



Richardson

Series is co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs and the Paul Meek Library. This free public event will be held in the Special Collections reading room of the Paul Meek Library, with a livestream broadcast.

Registration is not required but can be found on the [library's Runway event page](#).

For more information, contact **Dr. Erik Nordberg**, dean of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070.

UTM student group attends federal reserve briefing

The Economics Majors Association (EMA) and additional students from the College of Business and Global Affairs attended a Federal Reserve of St. Louis Regional Economic Briefing on Oct. 30 on the University of Louisville campus.

The audience was comprised of accounting, economic, finance and banking professionals from the Federal Reserve's Eighth District, which includes Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas and Mississippi.

Senior Vice President and Louisville Branch Regional Executive Seema Sheth provided opening remarks, and St. Louis

Fed economist and Research Officer Charles Gascon delivered a presentation on current U.S. and regional economic conditions.

UT Martin students were treated to an exclusive and tailored luncheon at the Louisville Federal Reserve Branch Office. The lunch was facilitated by Sheth and Abigail Lillge, assistant vice president.

Students were provided information regarding personal and professional development as well as career exploration and options within the Federal Reserve system.

After the Federal Reserve luncheon,

students toured the historical Louisville Slugger factory and facilities to learn more about their successful and sustainable business practices.

The students in attendance were EMA President Reyna Joyner, EMA Vice President Wyatt Carroll, Will Binkley, Maddox Clark, Jackson Crider, Hassan Kone, Maggie Koontz, Bethany Maneiro, Amy Mills, Adelina Richards, Owen Richards, Thomas Rogers, Carter Tolene and Paul Tolene.

Dr. Shawn Nanney, assistant professor of economics, is the student organization adviser and chaperoned the trip.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – Can university retirees participate in the complimentary lunch program for UTM employees?

• **Answer** – All full-time faculty and staff shall receive one complimentary meal plan swipe per week, which will allow for one free meal (breakfast, lunch or dinner) in Skyhawk Dining Hall during the academic fall and spring semesters only. This negotiated new benefit for employees was included in the terms of the Sodexo contract renewal; however, it does not extend to retirees.

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

At Scale podcast features Freeman, Theobald

A new At Scale podcast produced by tnAchieves began Nov. 3 and features UT Martin Chancellor Yancy Freeman and Obion County Joint Economic Development Corp. CEO Lindsay Theobald.

The two live and work in West Tennessee and seek to make sure opportunity grows there for students and the economy.

They talk about their deep love for living and working in



rural West Tennessee.

Tune in to hear how getting students into the college going pipeline leads to degrees and then gainful careers in rural West Tennessee.

They share how this work and these partnerships are making generational changes in their

communities. They also share what employers are telling them they need in future employees.

To learn more about the Rural Impact Celebration, click on [this link](#).

Listen to At Scale anywhere you get your favorite podcasts.



Freeman

Building Conversations and Coffee session set for Nov. 17

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

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

Freeman said earlier in the semester that these sessions are an opportunity for him to

engage with faculty and staff in their building to discuss current issues relating to what they are experiencing, personally and professionally.

He added that it would also give faculty and staff an opportunity to share their achievements, ask questions, voice concerns and explore innovative ideas and incentives for moving forward in building up the university.

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

Campus Calendar

Tuesday, Nov. 11

- Veterans Day program, 11 a.m., Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

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

Thursday, Nov. 13

- Veterans Bowl flag football game, 6 a.m., Hardy M. Graham Stadium.

Monday, Nov. 17

- Provost Candidate 2 public forum, 1:30 p.m., Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.
- Building Coffee and Conversations, 3 p.m., 101 Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

- Hawk Break, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., faculty and staff, Dunagan Alumni Center, \$9.
- UTM Research Series 125th anniversary special program, 4 p.m., Special Collections Room, Paul Meek Library.

Wednesday, Nov. 19

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

Thursday, Nov. 20

- Provost Candidate 3 public forum, 1:30 p.m., Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.
- Aaron Lewis and the Stateliners, 7:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Events are subject to cancellation; dates, times and sites are subject to change. Send free-admission, on-campus events to Addenda at addenda@utm.edu.

addenda

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