

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Nov. 17, 2025

UTM, Gibson County schools enter partnership



Chancellor Yancy Freeman speaks with a reporter Nov. 11 (above photo) at Gibson County High School to announce a partnership that will enable students to earn college credit – up to 30 credit hours – beyond traditional dual enrollment. (Below photo) A sign expresses the partnership between UT Martin and the Gibson County Special School District to enable Gibson County students to earn up to 30 credit hours beyond traditional dual enrollment. A story about this partnership will appear in a future issue of Addenda.



YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Julie Alexander, assistant professor of marketing, has been appointed to the board of directors for the Institute for Global Business Research, based in Nashville.

The institute is dedicated to the advancement of learning and scholarly research in all areas of business.

The organization's goal is

to provide outlets through conferences and journals for researchers to share their body of knowledge with a global audience.

Members of the board of directors also serve as ambassadors and spokespersons for the organization to promote its mission and offerings through global networking.



Alexander



Jean

Dr. Chan Mi Jean, director of keyboard studies, recorded a duo album of beloved piano and violin works with violinist Bartholomew Fortino-Shields titled "Franck / Brahms / Faure."

The album was recorded last June at Studio Steinway Recording - UK in London under the Sheva collection label.

Music on the album includes "Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano" by César Franck, "Violin Sonata in A major, Opus 100" by Johannes Brahms and "Romance for Violin and Piano, Opus 26" by Gabriel Fauré.

The album will be available on all major streaming platforms soon.

Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance, and Dr. Sam Hakim, senior vice president of risk management at Analytic Edges of Boston, published their article "Did the U.S. Federal Reserve Policy Harm the Stability of GCC Banks?" in the [Journal of Banking and Financial Dynamics](#), Nov. 11, 2025.

The article analyzes the performance and risk management practices of the top public banks in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries during a period of significant turmoil following several bank failures in the U.S.

The analysis identifies leaders

and laggards in a peer group of 10 GCC banks.

The article concluded that high-performing banks maintain sustainable capital ratios, liquidity and profitability amid rising interest rates. In contrast, laggards struggle to cope with the challenges posed by rising interest rates.

The examination of the unrealized losses banks suffered due to the sharp rise in interest rates supports the International Monetary Fund's warnings that banks in the Middle East may mask their losses and receive regulatory forbearance to carry them forward.

The size of the unrealized



Haddad

losses, which in some cases represent 3% of capital, raises questions about the banks' risk controls and established limits, as well as the regulatory oversight of the Central Banks in the region.

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](#)

 MARTIN | NEWS

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

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.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

- Men's basketball vs. Charleston Southern, 11 a.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Sunday, Dec. 7

- Men's basketball vs. Alabama State, 2 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Sunday, Dec. 14

- Basketball vs. Champion Christian (double-header): women at 2 p.m., men at 4:30 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 question to addenda@utm.edu!

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Toyama

Gabriel Rebeck, Japan Programs Director for the Lauraisan Institution, and Hiromi Zippieri of the Japan Foundation, New York, visited UT Martin on Nov. 5 and 6 to assess the status of the university's Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) program.

During this time, they met with **Erina Toyama**, UT Martin's JOI coordinator, and



Hammond

her supervisor, **Kyoko Hammond**, lecturer in Japanese.

They also met with **Dr. Jeff Longacre**, chair of the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, and **Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee**, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. They also observed a Japanese culture program designed and led by Toyama.



Longacre



Bibbee

At the end of their visit, Rebeck and Zippieri were introduced to **Chancellor Yancy Freeman**, with whom they discussed the importance of grassroots efforts aimed at promoting international awareness and understanding.

UT Martin will host Toyama as the JOI coordinator from 2025 to 2027.

Scott named UTM Ripley Center director



Scott

The UT Martin Office of Regional Centers and Online Programs announced **Dr. Sonia Scott** as the new director of the UTM Ripley Center.

Scott brings more than 25 years of dedicated service to education and leadership, including her experience as an instructor, assistant professor and master academic adviser at Dyersburg State Community College. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in speech communication from Bethune-Cookman University as well as a Doctorate in Instructional Leadership and a Master of Science degree in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

Her professional journey reflects a deep

commitment to student success, inclusive teaching and lifelong learning. Beyond her career accomplishments, Scott is a proud American Gold Star Mother.

"Dr. Scott's dedication to student success and her passion for education make her an extraordinary addition to the UTM Ripley Center," said Erica Bell, executive director of Regional Centers and Online Programs.

"Her leadership and compassionate spirit will be a tremendous resource as she supports our students and strengthens UT Martin's connection to the local community."

UT Martin opens Center for Southern Art

A new Center for Southern Art is being launched by the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, with a goal of establishing an expanded facility to support the region's arts programs.

The center hosted the closing ceremony for the Bellwethers Juried Exhibition of Collegiate Art on Nov. 14 at the West Tennessee Regional Art Center in Humboldt.

The Center for Southern Art aims to create a better understanding and appreciation of

the region's artistic culture and is housed within the UT Martin Department of Visual and Theatre Arts.

The new center recognizes the rich and diverse artistic traditions of the American South as a vital lens through which to explore themes of identity, place, memory, struggle and transformation.

The center's programming, exhibitions and acquisitions aim to emphasize the multiplicity of the experiences of those in the American South, with equal emphasis on the past, present and future of Southern

art.

This project is the brainchild of UT Martin artist and lecturer **Clay Palmer**, who serves as the center's director. Palmer works in close consultation with **Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee**, dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, and **Sarah Haig**, chair of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts, as well as the center's Faculty Guidance Council. This council consists of several faculty from across the college whose expertise and research interests align with

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UTM students attend TVA regional conference



Students from UT Martin's TVA Investment Challenge Program attended and participated in the annual Tennessee Valley Authority Regional Conference on Nov. 6. During the event, the UTM team presented its student-managed investment portfolio, showcasing the portfolio's annual performance, sector allocations, portfolio holdings and overall investment strategy. Their presentation highlighted the team's analytical approach, commitment to risk management, and alignment with TVA's long-term investment objectives. Pictured at the conference are (l-r) Daniel Duncan, a senior finance major from Nashville; Brenden Dickinson, a senior finance major from Brentwood; Samantha George, a senior finance major from Union City; Kayla Potete, an MBA student from Waynesboro; Bennet Ragan, a senior accounting and finance major from Dickson; Sebastian Lennox, a senior finance major from Troy; and Caroline Moore, a senior finance major from Nashville. The group is led by Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance.

Paul Meek Library hosts CoMeekCon

The Paul Meek Library collaborated with various departments and student organizations to host the four-day CoMeekCon event from Nov. 10-14.

The event provided students, faculty, staff and community members with opportunities to engage with pop culture and fandom.

On Nov. 10, attendees had the chance

to meet a local cartoonist during a Q&A session, interact with a local artist and participate in our Mini-Art competition. The activities for Nov. 11 included a comic trivia contest and exploring anime streaming options with J.A.R.S.

The Nov. 13 sessions featured D&D mini-figurine painting and a Pokémon origami station led by **Erina Toyama**, UTM's Japan

Outreach Initiative coordinator.

The event concluded Nov. 14 with the Battle of the Classes, a D&D panel and an after-hours open gaming session.

Participants also had the opportunity to explore library resources such as Comics Plus and the library's newest collection of graphic novels.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – Does the University of Tennessee provide a “mental health day” as a benefit? Or is this a matter of using a sick or annual leave day depending on the circumstances?

• **Answer** – There is no designated leave type called “mental health day.” If an employee needed time away from work, they would need to take annual leave or sick leave depending on the circumstance of the event.

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

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the center's mission.

"The Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at UT Martin has long been known for its support and investment in new and existing artists in the region, and the Center for Southern Art is the next step in building on that foundation," Palmer said. "We're building something that the local campus community and the greater Southern region will benefit from."

Within the second year of the center's establishment, Palmer aims to expand the programming and increase student and community involvement through student internships, artist residencies, workshops and year-round community events.

The center will also begin building a permanent collection through a pilot acquisition program while working with artists, galleries and other institutions. External grants and



Students are pictured earlier this fall setting up exhibits for this year's Bellwethers exhibition. The new Center for Southern Art hosted the closing ceremony for the Bellwethers exhibition. The center is expected to begin building a permanent collection through a pilot acquisition program.

fundraising will also be pursued with the intention of securing dedicated funding for collection growth and maintenance.

By the fifth year of the center's establishment, the aim is to begin preparing for the move to a new facility, which

will be part of a reimagining of the Northwest Tennessee Arts Center Project, and will include expanded facilities for UT Martin's mass media and strategic communication, visual and theatre arts, and music programs.

For more information about the Center for Southern Art, contact Clay Palmer at jpalmec36@utm.edu or 731-881-7417.

This article can be read in its entirety [at this site](#).

Campus Calendar

Tuesday, Nov. 18

- Hawk Break, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., faculty and staff, Dunagan Alumni Center, \$9.
- Candidate 1, dean of College of Education, Health and Behavioral Services, public forum, 1:30 p.m., Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.
- UTM Research Series 125th anniversary special program, 4 p.m., Special Collections Room, Paul Meek Library.

Wednesday, Nov. 19

- Candidate 2, dean of College of Education, Health and Behavioral Services, public forum, 1:30 p.m., Watkins Auditorium, Boling

University Center.

- Grant Management Best Practices, 2 p.m., 229 Boling University Center; info: 731-881-7015.
- 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

- Candidate 3, provost, 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.

Friday, Nov. 21

- Candidate 3, dean of College of Education, Health and Behavioral Services, public forum, 1:30 p.m., Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.

Monday, Nov. 24

- College Connection Day, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., start at Boling University Center.

Monday, Dec. 1

- "Financing Your Operation in 2026: West Tennessee Row Crop Workshop," 8-11 a.m. and 5-8 p.m., Champions Club, Hardy M. Graham Stadium.
- Institutional Animal Care

and Use Committee, 4 p.m., 124 Gooch Hall.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

- Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research, 2 p.m., 124 Gooch Hall.
- Holiday Open House and Toy Drive, 4-6 p.m., Russell Duncan Ballroom, Ed and Carolyn Boling University Center; RSVP to 731-881-7507 or abates17@utm.edu.

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.

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