

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Feb. 2, 2026

UT Martin's winter wonderland



A white blanket of snow covered the campus Jan. 24, and the combination of snow, ice, sleet and freezing rain kept classes and offices closed for the next week, with faculty, staff and students returning to the main campus Feb. 2. Thanks to all essential workers who took care of the students during the closure.

ENTICE Series opens Feb. 3 with wellness program

The first week of UT Martin's ENTICE Series begins Tuesday, Feb. 3, with mental wellness advocate Jay Michael Martin Jr. showing how the benefits of cooking can enhance people's state of well-being and promote togetherness.

ENTICE stands for "Evolving Narratives: Tennessee Initiative for Civic Engagement." The theme of this year's conference is "Come Together." Dr. Henri Giles, assistant professor of African American studies, is the coordinator for the ENTICE series.

Martin's program will be held at 6 p.m., Feb. 3, in Room 206 of the Dr. Edward J. and Carolyn P. Boling University Center.

Martin dealt with trauma at a young age,

Continued on PAGE 3



Jay Michael Martin Jr., a noted PBS host, media personality and mental wellness advocate, will open UT Martin's 2026 ENTICE Series schedule Feb. 3. He will share how cooking helped him with his own healing.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Abbie McClure, assistant professor of literacy, and Lauren Campbell, lecturer of education, have received an NEA CREATE grant for their project, "Building Foundations: Equipping Weakley County's Early Childhood Resource Center for Family Success."

Through this grant, they are partnering with Karen Fowler, the Weakley County Schools pre-K family school consultant and director of Weakley County's Early Childhood Family Resource Center.

The funding will allow Smith and Campbell to provide new resources for the center serving Weakley County families and students while also creating meaningful opportunities for UT Martin students to support the ECFRC and learn directly from early childhood professionals in the field.

"We're grateful for this opportunity and look forward to the impact this partnership will have on families, students and the community," Smith said.



McClure



Campbell

Dr. Jamye Long and Dr. Cooper Johnson, both professors of management, co-lead training designed to educate participants on executive interviewing skills, from the perspectives of interviewees and the interviewers.

Participants learned techniques on how to draw favorable attention through demonstrating competence and quality, preparing for interviews using the teamwork approach and never to underestimate the value of genuineness, collegiality and predictability.



Long



Cooper

The news at news.utm.edu

[UTM ENTICE Series opens Feb. 3 with program from mental wellness advocate Jay Michael Martin Jr.](#)

[Spring enrollment growth cited at UTM Advisory Board meeting Jan. 23](#)

[UT Martin ENTICE Series schedule released, begins Feb. 3](#)

[UTM Summer Orientation And Registration event \(SOAR\) is now open](#)

UT MARTIN | NEWS

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

Tuesday, Feb. 3

- *Women's basketball vs. Little Rock, 5:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center (from Jan. 24).
- *Men's basketball vs. Little Rock, 7:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center (from Jan. 24).

Thursday, Feb. 5

- *Women's basketball vs. Southern Indiana, 5 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.
- *Men's basketball vs. Southern Indiana, 7:30 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Saturday, Feb. 7

- Rifle, OVC Smallbore Championship, 9 a.m., Skyhawk Rifle Range.
- *Women's basketball vs. Morehead State, noon, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

- *Men's basketball vs. Morehead State, 3 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center (ESPNU).

Sunday, Feb. 8

- Rifle, OVC Air Rifle Championship, 9 a.m., Skyhawk Rifle Range.

Friday, Feb. 13

- Softball vs. Saint Louis, 9:30 a.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field.
- Softball vs. Mississippi Valley State, noon, Bettye Giles Softball Field.
- Baseball vs. Butler, 3 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

* - conference competition; Full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com.

Dates and times are subject to change.

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

Faculty, staff, students represent at JSM



The Department of Mathematics and Statistics was represented at the 2025 Joint Statistical Meetings held Aug. 2-7 in Nashville, with faculty, staff and students participating in professional development, scholarly exchange and networking. Pictured are (standing, l-r) Dr. Curtis Kunkel, professor of mathematics and statistics; Dr. Justin Sims, associate professor of mathematics and statistics; senior math majors Jadon Buchanan, Arlena Ferrel and Natalie Bayless; department administrative assistant Shelly Long; Barbara Kunkel, lecturer of mathematics and statistics; (kneeling, l-r) senior math major Brandon Jones; and Dr. Bryan Sandor, lecturer of mathematics and statistics.

ENTICE from PAGE 1

and the impact followed him through much of his adult life. With therapy and storytelling, he found his voice.

Martin will help people “come together” in his ENTICE program by sharing his mental wellness journey and putting on a cooking demonstration with students. He will talk about how cooking helped him during his healing.

Martin is a PBS host, media personality and storyteller whose work bridges emotional wellness, performing arts and meaningful community engagement. He began his on-screen journey as a local PBS host in Seattle, which led to national appearances during PBS pledge events for series like “American Masters,” “Gospel” and “Nature.”

He is also the creator of “Note to Self,” a monthly wellness segment on KOMO 4 News, and former host of “The Drive Project” podcast, a six-season



CNN commentator and analyst and UT Martin alumnus Van Jones will be the keynote speaker for the 2026 ENTICE Series. Jones will speak at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17, in Phillip W. Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center.

series exploring mental health and real-life stories through interviews with changemakers, therapists and everyday voices.

Martin is also the national ambassador for Active Minds, a national nonprofit organization

dedicated to promoting mental health awareness, education and advocacy among young adults.

Other programs in the ENTICE Series in the first week are:

- “Community Celebration

of Music,” a musical collaboration organized by Dr. Mark Statler, assistant professor of music, and featuring The New Pacer Singers, The UTM Gospel Choir and the Discovery Park of America Choir. The program will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 5, in the Phillip W. Watkins Auditorium of the Dr. Edward J. and Carolyn P. Boling University Center.

- “Dreaming Out Loud: The American Dream Under Review,” a student panel exploring the attainment of the American dream today and an examination of America’s promises to its citizens. The program will be held at 6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 9, in Watkins Auditorium.

All programs are free and open to the public.

For more information about the 2026 ENTICE Series, visit [this site](#).

Giving Circle grant applications now available

The University of Tennessee Alliance of Women Philanthropists is now accepting applications for its Giving Circle grants program for 2025-26.

Faculty members are required to submit their grant application to the UT Research Foundation's Office of Sponsored Programs via Cayuse SP by Friday, Feb. 20. All other applications must be submitted by Friday, Feb. 27.

Applicants can contact the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to assist with application submission. The information sheet and required cover sheet can be downloaded from [this site](#).

Faculty, staff, departments and university-recognized student organizations from any

University of Tennessee campus or unit are eligible to apply. Grants will be awarded to the most innovative and deserving applicants as determined by the Alliance Executive Board.

Grants range between \$2,500 to \$25,000 and are awarded annually. Projects and programs may be ongoing or a one-time event.

The Alliance Executive Board is dedicated to supporting transformative ideas by awarding grants to the most innovative and deserving applicants. It seeks proposals that challenge conventional approaches and inspire new solutions to pressing needs.

With funding ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000, the board aims to empower visionary



Melton

projects and programs that demonstrate creativity, impact and potential for meaningful change. Whether an ongoing initiative or a groundbreaking one-time event, eligible proposals should exemplify forward-thinking strategies that advance the board's mission and leave a lasting legacy.

Funding may not be used for any of the following activities or expenditures:

- General operating expenses or overhead, including faculty salaries
- Grants to benefit only one individual
- Endowment funding
- Interim or bridge funding

For more information, contact **Alisha Melton**, executive director of the UT Martin Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development, at 731-881-7015 or at amelton6@utm.edu.

■ The Hal and Alma Reagan Faculty Leave Program application deadline has been extended to Friday, Feb. 6, due to UTM's weather-related closing last week.

Campus Calendar

Tuesday, Feb. 3

- "HR Overview and Prerequisites," 9-10 a.m., virtual program via Teams.
- "Understanding and Navigating the Annual Performance Review Process," 10-11 a.m., virtual program via Teams.
- Institutional Review Board, 4 p.m., 124 Gooch Hall.
- ENTICE, 6 p.m., mental wellness advocate Jay

Michael Martin Jr., 206 Boling University Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

- ORSP Grant Workshop Series, 3 p.m., 239 Boling University Center.
- "Understanding and Navigating the Annual Performance Review Process," 3-4 p.m., 101 Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building.

Thursday, Feb. 5

- ENTICE, 6 p.m., "Community Celebrations of Music," Watkins Auditorium, Boling University Center.

Monday, Feb. 9

- ENTICE, 6 p.m., "Dreaming Out Loud: The American Dream Under Review," Phillip W. Watkins Auditorium, Dr. Edward J. and Carolyn P. Boling

University Center.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

- UTM Research Series, "Sex, Gender and Procreation in Kafka," Dr. Charles Hammond, professor of German, 4 p.m., Paul Meek Library.

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.

You Tell Me

• **Question** – Does the university's Power Generation Facility, located on Jerry D. Gresham Road, provide power backup to the campus? And does the facility still have an academic component/benefit for students?

• **Answer** – The Power Generation Facility is not an emergency backup generator for the campus. However, it can provide standby electrical power for the entire campus if needed. The Power Generation Facility was built in 2005 at a cost of \$4.9 million to provide the main campus with a special interruptible power rate from TVA. The generator plant houses four 2-megawatt generators. These generators can power the entire campus electrical load and can export surplus power back on the TVA electrical grid when in operation. TVA pays the campus a monthly rate of \$26,000 to be able to request the campus to be on its own power within five minutes of notification and export the surplus to the TVA electrical grid. The power generation plant has one large classroom that allows for viewing of the generators. Agriculture classes use the facility most often, but engineering students have had labs and tours there as part of their electrical engineering and mechanical engineering courses. The UTM Physical Plant also uses the classroom for capital projects and staff trainings.

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

Too cool for school

These photos were captured Saturday, Jan. 24, on the UT Martin main campus after a snowstorm coated the buildings and landscape – and much of the Mid-South – in a blanket of snow, ice, sleet and freezing rain, shutting down the university for an entire week. A time-lapse video showing the storm moving in and covering the campus in a coating of white can be found [at this site](#).



Hammond to discuss Kafka in UTM Research Series

Dr. Charles Hammond, professor of German in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages, will discuss the work of author Franz Kafka as part of the UT Martin Research Series.



Hammond

The event is set for 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, in the Paul Meek Library, with a livestream broadcast and recording for later playback.

The presentation, titled “Sex, Gender and Procreation in Kafka,” will be interactive and participatory for those who attend.

Hammond will provide an overview of the fragmented life of the Austrian author.

“Franz Kafka is one of the 20th century’s most modern and celebrated authors,” Hammond

said. “That fragmentation is exactly what makes him – and us – modern.”

Hammond will detail Kafka’s first short story, “The Judgment” (in German: “Das Urteil”), which Kafka wrote in a single sitting and likened in his diary to a real birth.

A lifelong bachelor with

no biological children of his own, Kafka maintained a very ambivalent view of marriage, sex and childbirth.

Hammond’s presentation will examine how this story explores Kafka’s feelings on these topics and how Kafka linked his reticence to start a family to his writing.

Hammond joined UT Martin in 2004. He has authored a number of articles on turn-of-the-century Austrian writers Franz Kafka and Hugo von Hofmannsthal that have appeared in a variety of journals, including *Colloquia Germanica*, *Orbis Litterarum*, *Pacific Coast Philology* and *Germanisch-Romanische Monatsschrift*.

He is currently working on a book about Kafka’s canonical

short story “In the Penal Colony.”

In addition to his teaching and writing, Hammond enjoys leading an annual travel study to Braunschweig, Germany, an opportunity available to UTM students of German at all levels.

The Division of Academic Affairs and the Paul Meek Library co-sponsor the UT Martin Research Series. This free public event will be held in the Paul Meek Library.

Registration is not required, but these and other events 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.

Captain’s Challenge set for April 1 – no foolin’

The 12th annual Captain’s Challenge will take place on Wednesday, April 1. While that coincides with April Fool’s Day, the impact is very real.

The Captain’s Challenge giving event provides a way for people to give not only to the university but also to specific programs and departments.

Last year’s Captain’s Challenge brought in \$579,271 from 1,665 donors, setting event records in both categories.

Matching funds helps to make the Challenge work. Each gift is matched dollar for dollar, giving a gift double its value.

Faculty or staff may set up a specific shortened URL address



Borden

to make it easy for donors to find and give to.

Those who would like a short URL address should send a request to Matt Borden, director of annual giving, at 731-881-3611 or mborden5@utm.edu by Monday, March 2.

ORSP Presents:
GRANT WORKSHOP SERIES
SPRING 2026

FEB. 4TH MAR. 16TH APR. 13TH

3:00 PM

UC RM 229

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?
 EMAIL: ORSP@UTM.EDU

addenda

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