

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | March 16, 2026

UT Martin, TCAT Jackson enter articulation agreement



Attending the signing of an articulation agreement between UT Martin and TCAT Jackson on March 10 in the Gibson County High School equine building are (l-r) Lyndsey Norman, agriculture instructor and dual enrollment instructor for the GCHS digital agronomy program; Robert Owen, TCAT Jackson digital agronomy/farming operations instructor; Susan Dean, TCAT Jackson dual enrollment coordinator; Britney Ward, TCAT Jackson vice president of student services; Karen Larsen, TCAT Jackson vice president for instruction and institutional effectiveness; Dr. JacQuene Rainey, TCAT Jackson president; UT Martin Chancellor Yancy Freeman Sr.; Eddie Pruett, director of schools for the Gibson County Special School District; Erica Bell, UT Martin executive director for regional centers and online programs; and Dr. Wes Totten, professor of plant and soil science, chair of the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources and director of the UT Martin Center of Excellence for Experimental Learning in Agricultural Science.

Faculty, staff invited to 3V Initiative luncheon

UT Martin faculty and staff are invited to a special luncheon to be held from noon to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, in Room 206 of the Boling University Center.

The luncheon will include representatives of the city of Martin as well as citizen volunteers to kick off the 3V Strategic Initiative, a comprehensive 10-year roadmap launched by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to ensure that Martin's growth is intentional and sustainable.

3V stands for "vision, voices and viability." The initiative was developed to address long-

term infrastructure, economic development, and quality-of-life goals for the next decade.

The plan is built on three essential pillars:

- Vision: Defining how the city should look in 2036.
- Voices: Ensuring meaningful community input from all stakeholder groups.
- Viability: Creating realistic, financially responsible strategies to achieve these goals.

"UT Martin is the heart of this city, and our faculty and staff are among its most vital stakeholders," said **Chancellor Yancy Freeman Sr.** "Whether you are a

lifelong resident of Martin or commute from a neighboring town or county, your perspective is essential.

"The city needs the voices of those who work, teach and invest their time here to ensure the final plan reflects the true needs of everyone who contributes to Martin's success."

The special luncheon provides faculty and staff the opportunity to meet with city leaders, ask questions and provide input that will help shape the next 10 years of the development of the city of Martin.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Professors attend math conference



The Department of Mathematics and Statistics was well represented at the American Mathematical Society Fall 2025 Central Sectional Meeting, held at Saint Louis University in October. Faculty members (l-r), Dr. Jason DeVito, Dr. Shalmali Bandyopadhyay and Dr. Robert Niedzialomski attended the conference. Bandyopadhyay and DeVito delivered research presentations, and UT Martin undergraduate student Kimsear Lor presented his first invited talk at the meeting. Lor’s research was conducted under the supervision of Bandyopadhyay.

The Southeastern Section of the Geological Society of America held its 75th annual meeting March 8-11 in Memphis.

The meeting was a triple joint regional meeting that included the Southeastern, North-Central and South-Central sections and included field trips throughout West Tennessee.

Dr. Stan Dunagan, professor of geology, and Dr. Michael Gibson, professor emeritus of geosciences, co-presented

a poster entitled “Using Discriminative AI to Identify Fossil Problematica from the Coon Creek Formation (Campanian, West Tennessee).”

The abstract can be found [at this site](#).

■ Alan Youngerman, director of the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer; Josh Ratliff, educator coordinator at the UT Martin Coon Creek Science Center; Gibson and several other researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey,

Tennessee State University, Vanderbilt University and the University of Memphis ran a field trip to the UT Martin Coon Creek Science Center for 23 participants of the meeting. The field guide for the trip was published as a paper.

The Geological Society of America also developed a YouTube video about all of their field trips, but focused on the Coon Creek field trip.

The video can be found [at this site](#).



Gibson



Dunagan



Youngerman

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

Tuesday, March 17

- Softball vs. Middle Tennessee, 1 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field.

Wednesday, March 18

- *Beach volleyball vs. Chattanooga, 4 p.m., Skyhawk Beach Volleyball Complex.

Tuesday, March 24

- Baseball vs. Southern Illinois, 6 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

Friday, March 27

- *Baseball vs; Lindenwood, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

Saturday, March 28

- *Softball vs. SIUE (dh), noon, Bettye Giles Softball Field.
- *Baseball vs. Lindenwood, 3 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

Sunday, March 29

- *Softball vs. SIUE, noon, Bettye Giles Softball Field.
- *Baseball vs. Lindenwood, 1 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

Tuesday, March 31

- Baseball vs. Alabama A&M, 3 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

Wednesday, April 1

- Soccer vs. Bethel, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field (spring schedule).
- Soccer vs. Union, 7 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field (spring schedule).

* - conference competition; dh - double-header (baseball and softball); full athletics schedules can be found at [utmsports.com](#).

Dates and times are subject to change.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Amy Yeung, professor of music, and **Dr. Chan Mi Jean**, lecturer of music, performed compositions written by Alma Schindler-Mahler, an Austrian composer (1879-1964), at the 10th annual Music by Women Festival, hosted March 6 by the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi.

The selections were from Mahler's "Fünf Lieder" ("Five

Songs"), composed in 1910. The songs included "Die stille Stadt," "In meine Vaters Garten," "Laue Sommernacht," "Bei dir ist es traut" and "Ich wandle unter Blumen."

Founded in 2017 by Dr. Julia Mortyakova, chair of the MUW Department of Music, the festival highlights music composed by women, both historic and contemporary.



Yeung



Jean

Pharris, students coordinate MES cyber workshop

Dr. Lily Pharris, assistant professor of computer science and cybersecurity, coordinated a cybersecurity outreach activity with the Martin Elementary School STEM Club on March 12.

Pharris mentored six UT Martin cybersecurity students to design and facilitate interactive learning stations for 38 fourth- and fifth-grade students, introducing foundational cybersecurity concepts through hands-on activities.

The activities included "Lock Lab," where students explored how physical locks work and how security professionals test locks

to understand vulnerabilities in physical security systems while also discussing the importance of using cybersecurity skills ethically and with permission.

In "Scam Busters," students evaluated short scenarios to determine whether messages were legitimate or scams, learning how attackers use social engineering to trick individuals into sharing information.

During "Password Power-Up," students learned how to create stronger passwords. One student discovered their password appeared among the most commonly used passwords, prompting discussion about

stronger password practices.

Pharris said the outreach gave UT Martin students a chance to apply their knowledge while developing communication, leadership and teamwork skills.

UT Martin's cybersecurity program prepares students for careers in areas such as digital forensics, network security and cyber defense through hands-on learning and community engagement.

The UT Martin cybersecurity students who participated were Claire Bullington, Reece Cosbey, CJ Durham, Tyler Hull, Joey Meeks and Iyanna Woods.



Dr. Lily Pharris (kneeling at far left), assistant professor of computer science and cybersecurity, and six UT Martin cybersecurity students are shown with Martin Elementary School STEM Club members March 12 during a workshop organized by Pharris and the students. Interactive learning stations were used by the 38 fourth- and fifth-graders to learn about using cybersecurity skills ethically, learning how scammers use social engineering to trick people into sharing information, and creating more effective passwords.

Registration deadline for two programs is Friday

The deadline for two university-related events is Friday, March 20.

Those wanting to nominate a student worker for the spring 2026 Beth Maloan UT Martin Student Employee Award should do so by the end of the day March 20.

The Beth Maloan Award recognizes student workers for their hard work and dedication. The award includes a \$1,000 award and an engraved plaque.

Nomination forms are available [at this site](#). Nomination forms can be submitted [at this site](#).

All nominations will be reviewed by a committee, and that committee will select

one exceptional student employee to receive this special award.

As the director of budgeting and payroll, Beth Maloan became a strong advocate for student employment. This award endorses Beth's vision to recognize outstanding student performance and develop experiential learning opportunities to make students significant contributors to the university's mission and better prepared for their professional endeavors.

The deadline to register and submit proposals for the fifth annual UT Martin Experiential Learning Leadership Institute Conference, known as ELLI, is also March

20.

The ELLI Conference will be held Thursday, April 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Discovery Park of America in Union City.

Registration for participants and attendees of the ELLI Conference is open [at this site](#).

The theme of this year's conference is "Teaching Students the Way They Learn: Experiential Learning In and Outside the Classroom."

For more information about conference registration and fees, contact elliconference@utm.edu or email **Dr. Dexter Davis**, co-chair of the conference, at ddavis78@utm.edu.

Campus Calendar

Monday, March 16

- "History of Military Nursing," 6:30 p.m., Martin Public Library, second floor.

Tuesday, March 17

- Coffee and Conversations with the Chancellor, 9 a.m., ITS Presentation Room, Crisp Hall, open to all.

Thursday, March 19

- "Navigating Difficult Conversations: For

Managers," Part 2, noon to 1 p.m., virtual via Zoom, register [at this site](#), led by Merry Brown, Office of the Ombuds.

March 24-26

- UT Innovative Technology Symposium, Knoxville Convention Center; register through March 17; open to faculty, staff and students; app and registration info

available [at this site](#).

Tuesday, March 31

- "Maintaining Balance in Life," sustaining mental, emotional, and physical health while meeting life's demands, 3-4 p.m., virtual via Cisco WebEx, register [at this site](#), led by speaker and motivator Cathy Richards.

Monday, April 6

- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee 4 p.m., 124 Gooch Hall.

Tuesday, April 7

- Intercollegiate Review Board, 4 p.m., 124 Gooch Hall.

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.

CRAFTING MAGIC: A STITCH IN TIME

TUESDAYS, MARCH 31 - MAY 19 | 6 - 8 P.M.
206 GOOCH HALL, UT MARTIN CAMPUS

Learn sewing and mending basics
Guided class with an expert
Registration fee includes all supplies



COST: \$75



UT MARTIN PRACTICAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

An eight-week workshop with Lauren Johnson

THURSDAYS, MARCH 26 - MAY 14 | 6 - 7:30 P.M.
UT MARTIN CAMPUS

Foundational knowledge of the mind, body, and soul

Tools and skills for setting meaningful, personal goals

Encouragement through group discussion & connections



COST: \$150

Click on the boxes for more information about these programs.

Cole named spring 2026 Featured Faculty Scholar

Dr. John Cole, associate professor of agricultural engineering technology, has been named a Featured Faculty Scholar for the spring 2026 semester.

Cole will present his research at 4 p.m., Thursday, April 2, in the Paul Meek Library. The event is free and open to the public. Cole's presentation will be livestreamed on YouTube, and a recording will be available afterward at the same link.

Cole's presentation, "From Factory Floors to Agricultural Academia: An Unconventional Engineering Journey," explores his personal path that led him from engineering roles in industry to a career in higher education.

The talk will highlight how experiences in manufacturing, design engineering and agriculture shaped his academic work and teaching.

Early experiences working in agriculture during high school and participating in FFA inspired him to pursue a degree in biosystems and agricultural engineering.

After graduating, he worked as a project engineer for a defense contractor and later as a manufacturing engineer for a steel door company, gaining experience in crane and equipment design.

A chance meeting with a former faculty member

eventually led Cole to an opportunity to teach as a lecturer at UT Martin.

Cole returned to graduate study at Mississippi State University, where he earned a Ph.D. in forest resources. During that time, he contributed to several funded initiatives, including the Mobile Energy Classroom, two Tennessee Corn Promotion Board research projects and the SAFE Farm Steward Program.

These efforts have helped expand undergraduate research opportunities and hands-on learning experiences at UT Martin.

His work has also included international teaching experiences in Italy and Kenya.

Cole joined UT Martin as



Cole

a lecturer in 2013. He earned both his Bachelor of Science and master of science degrees in biosystems and agricultural engineering from the University of Kentucky and holds a Ph.D. in forest resources with a concentration in sustainable bioproducts from Mississippi State University.

Before entering academia, Cole spent several years working as a design and project engineer. He is also a licensed professional mechanical engineer and has pursued several entrepreneurial ventures, including an agricultural startup.

Cole shares Featured Faculty Scholar honors this semester with Dr. Abigail Shelton, professor of chemistry.

The Featured Faculty Scholar program recognizes faculty whose research and creative achievements are among the most distinguished on campus.

For more information, contact Dr. Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070, or visit the library's Runway page [at this site](#).



PHI KAPPA PHI 2026 TOMLINSON LECTURE

SARAH BAGLEY DIDN'T SAY THAT:

MISATTRIBUTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

DR. KASSIE JO BARON
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH



TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST | 6:00 | MCCOMBS CENTER

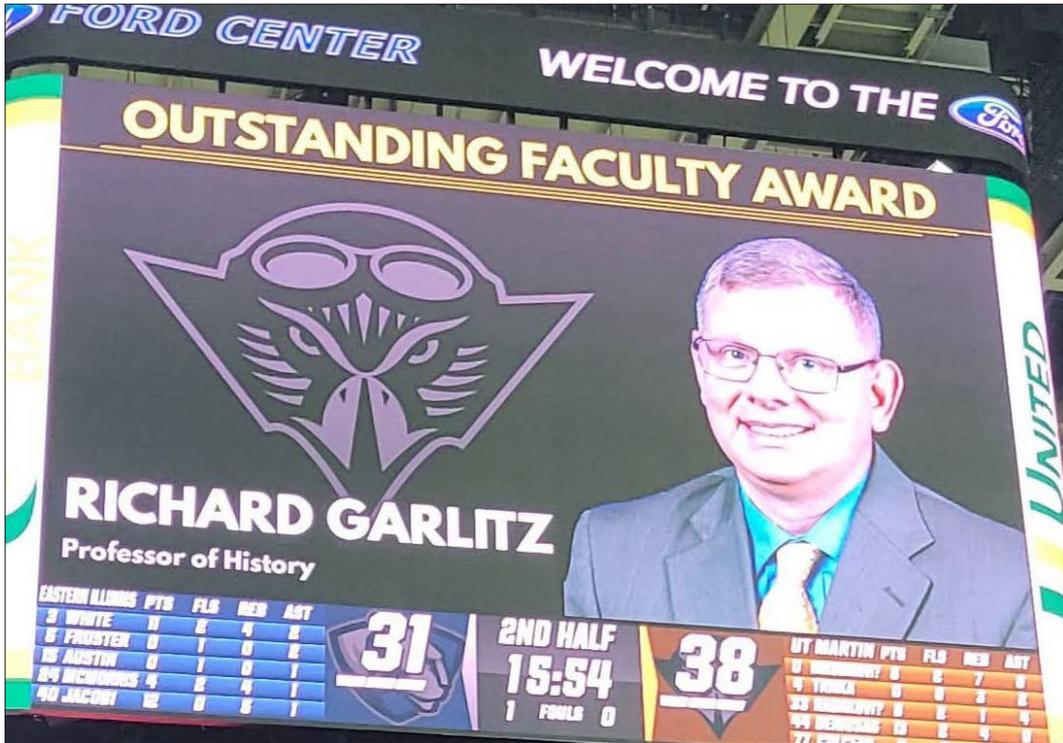
You Tell Me

• **Question** – Who are the administrators for the digital monitors seen around the UT Martin main campus and regional centers, and what are their responsibilities related to the monitors?

• **Answer** – Digital monitors across the UT Martin campus and regional centers are owned and managed by the individual departments or units responsible for the spaces in which they are located. Those departments or offices are responsible for keeping building- or department-specific content on their screens up to date. For campus-wide announcements or events that need broader visibility, content can be placed on digital monitors through the Office of University Relations by coordinating with Nathan Morgan at nmorga15@utm.edu. IT Services can provide detailed information for specific monitor management upon request.

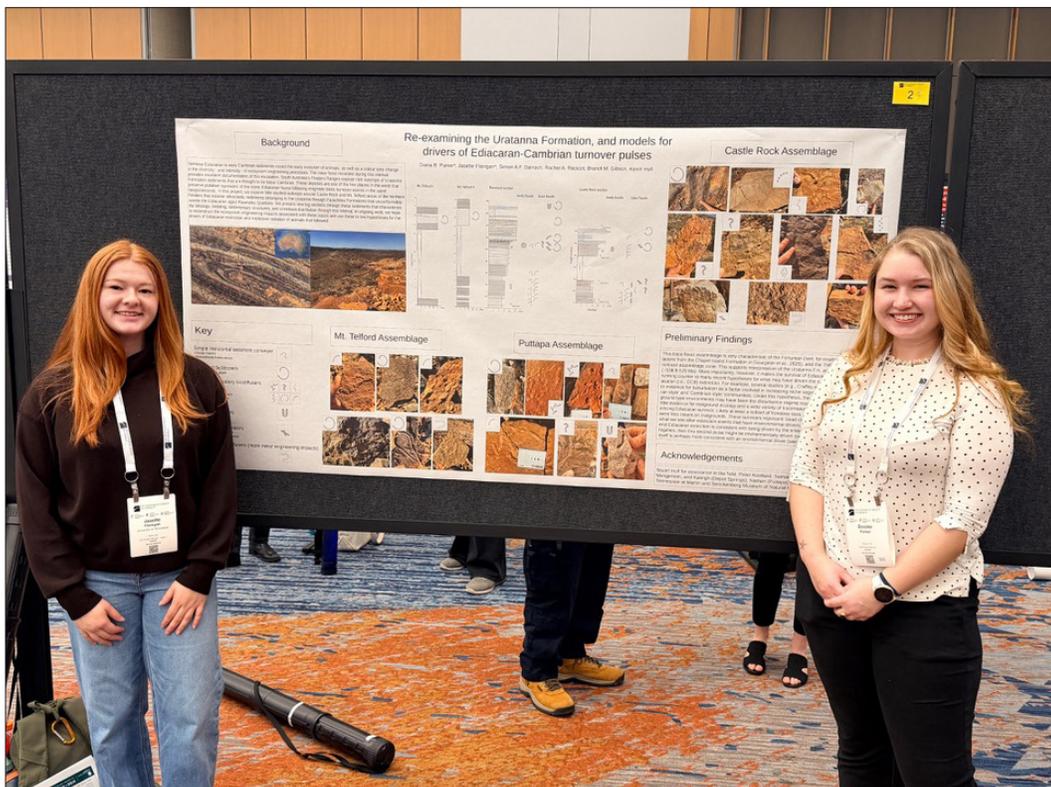
Submit your questions to Addenda at addenda@utm.edu.

Garlitz named to OVC faculty award from UT Martin



Dr. Richard Garlitz, professor of history, was announced as a recipient of the Ohio Valley Conference Outstanding Faculty - Commitment to Student Success Award during the OVC basketball championship tournament held March 4-7 at the Ford Center in Evansville, Indiana. The award began in March 2023 and was created by the provosts from each OVC member institution to recognize outstanding faculty at each OVC member institution. Each OVC member institution had the opportunity to nominate a faculty member with the rank of associate professor or full-time professor who has been employed at the institution for at least five years. The criteria included impacts of students, contributions made to the department, university and curriculum development, consistent professional development as well as community involvement and institutional service.

UT Martin students present geologic research



Current geosciences major Jasette Flanigan (left) and geosciences graduate Brooke Parker presented their research March 9 under the mentorship of Dr. Brandt Gibson, lecturer of geosciences, at the Triple Joint Southeastern/North-Central/South-Central annual section meeting of the Geological Society of America in Memphis. As part of an international collaboration with researchers from the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt, Germany, Gibson and his students spent three weeks last summer in the Flinders Ranges of southern Australia exploring remote fossil sites. Their research documents a rare package of sediments that preserves the early evolutionary history of animals where enigmatic Ediacaran lifeforms overlapped with early animals from the subsequent Cambrian Explosion. Their poster is part of a larger research program testing the hypothesis that Cambrian animals caused the end-Ediacaran mass-extinction event.

addenda

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