

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | March 30, 2026

Galan Trio performs, instructs at UT Martin



Dr. Michael Mathenia (second from left), lecturer of music, composition, theory and strings, poses with members of Galan Trio (l-r) Babis Karasavvidis, Petros Bouras and Marina Kolovou. UT Martin funded a day-long residency March 19 by the classical piano trio from Athens, Greece, in which they gave master classes for string and piano students as well as a two-hour session with student composers, where the trio performed pieces by the students and gave them feedback on their writing. Galan Trio performed in concert at the end of the day.



The classical piano trio Galan Trio (right) came to UT Martin as it traveled across the country in the ninth concert series of its Kinesis Project. On this particular concert series, they featured a piece that was written by Dr. Michael Mathenia, UT Martin lecturer in music, composition, theory and strings, entitled "Sylvan Awakening," which he composed earlier this year specifically for Galan Trio and this project. Shown in the photo are (l-r) Babis Karasavvidis on violin, Petros Bouras on piano and Marina Kolovou on cello.

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance, and Laura Hatch, assistant professor of accounting, were featured in articles on WalletHub.com.

Haddad's comments - found [at this site](#) - were about how Visa credit cards work.

Hatch's comments - found [at this site](#) - were about the benefits and risks for people with no credit getting a credit card.



Haddad



Hatch



Brown

Dr. Christopher M. Brown, professor of philosophy, delivered the 2026 Aquinas Lecture on March 24 at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The Aquinas Lecture is the oldest lecture series at Mount Mercy University, going back to the 1950s. The title of the lecture was "Friendship, Heaven, and the Communion of the Saints."

Brown explained the

"communion of saints" phrase in the Apostles' Creed by offering answers to the following questions: What is friendship? How can we be friends in this life with Mary and the saints in heaven?

To answer these questions, Brown drew on Aristotle's account of perfect friendship and St. Thomas Aquinas' account of the beatific vision of the saints in heaven.

J. Houston Gordon Museum honored



At the Tennessee Association of Museums conference held March 11-13 at Discovery Park of America in Union City, the J. Houston Gordon Museum was honored with the Award of Commendation for Temporary Exhibits for its exhibition "Celebrate 125 Years of UT Martin History." Pictured are (l-r) university archives and museum assistant Karen Elmore; Sarah Griffin, president of the Tennessee Association of Museums; and museum curator Sam Richardson. The J. Houston Gordon Museum serves as the official museum of UT Martin and is housed within Special Collections and Archives in the Paul Meek Library.

The news at news.utm.edu

[UTM Spring College Rodeo tickets are now on sale](#)

[SOAR registration is now open](#)

UTM MARTIN | NEWS

Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

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 (exhibition).
- Soccer vs. Union, 7 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field (exhibition).

Tuesday, April 7

- Softball vs. Murray State, 4 p.m., Bettye Giles Softball Field.
- Soccer vs. Trevecca Nazarene, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field (exhibition).
- Soccer vs. Northwest Mississippi Community College, 7 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field (exhibition).

April 9-11

- Rodeo, 58th annual UT Martin Spring College Rodeo, 7:30 p.m. nightly, Ned McWherter Agricultural Complex.

** - conference competition; dh - double-header (baseball and softball); full athletics schedules can be found at utmsports.com.
Dates and times are subject to change.*

Sargolzaei attends IEEE conference in Huntsville

Dr. Saman Sargolzaei (far left), associate professor of engineering, and students (l-r) Seth Hatchett, a triple-major in electrical engineering, biology and chemistry; Justin Finn, a computer science major; and Thomas Paxton, a mechanical engineering major, participated in the 2026 IEEE SoutheastCon, held March 6-9 in Huntsville, Alabama. Their participation included presenting two peer-reviewed articles on behalf of the UT Martin interdisciplinary authorship team, chairing conference sessions and competing in the software, circuit design and ethics competitions.



UT Martin STUNT team to host conference championship



[The UT Martin STUNT team](#) finished its third regular season with a record of 13-4 and will host the Mid-America West Conference Championship April 10-12 in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. The Skyhawks won the first 10 competitions of the 2026 season. Shown above from a March 14 competition in the Skyhawk Fieldhouse are (being supported, l-r) Addison Cary, Emmy Melton, and Jennifer Jaco, and (supporters, l-r) Alyssa Calamia, Emily Wood, Sidnee Smith, Alexa Stock, CeCelia Dollison, Emma Phelps, Grace Smothers, Tembreanna Mahan and Kaylie Higgins. STUNT is a fast-growing sport in women's athletics, having been given official NCAA championship status last January.

UT Martin well represented at math conference



Faculty and students from the UT Martin Department of Mathematics and Statistics participated in the Mathematical Association of America South-eastern Section Conference held March 26-28 at the University of North Alabama. Attending faculty included (l-r) John Bush, Tom Eskew, Dr. Jason DeVito, Dr. Robert Niedzialomski, Dr. Robert DeYeso III and Dr. Shalmali Bandyopadhyay. DeYeso presented two talks, and DeVito and Bandyopadhyay each presented one talk. The department was also represented by undergraduate students Kyle Byassee, Bailyn Hall, Danelle Jay, Hunter Johnson, Brandon Jones, Kimsear Lor and Joan West. West won the undergraduate paper award. Johnson presented a poster under the supervision of Niedzialomski, Hall and Lor presented a poster under the supervision of Bandyopadhyay, and West delivered a talk under the supervision of DeVito. Byassee, Johnson, Jones and West represented UT Martin in the conference Math Jeopardy competition, winning the first round.

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

3:00 PM

UC RM 229

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?
EMAIL: ORSP@UTM.EDU

Three named to March Skyhawk Spirit Awards

Three UT Martin faculty or staff members were awarded the Skyhawk Spirit Award for the month of March.

Maya Alicia Donaldson, Cayce Wainscott and Jace Williams each received a \$50 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

Donaldson, the director of the social work program and a professor of social work, was nominated for her roles as a program director, professor and mentor.

"Alicia Donaldson is an outstanding program director for the social work program," her letter of nomination stated.

"Most recently, she successfully advocated for a program expansion to offer a fully-online Bachelor of Science in Social Work program, which has received incredible support."

Wainscott, an administrative assistant in the Department of Educational Studies, was nominated for his organizational skills and his determination to take on new challenges.

"Cayce is a proactive problem-



Donaldson

solver with a go-getter attitude," his letter of nomination stated. "For example, he has taken the bull by the horns to understand and navigate the DASH system and collaborates with colleagues to resolve major technical issues within it. He has become one of the go-to people when it comes to DASH."

Williams, an audio/video system administrator in the Office of Information Technology Services, was nominated for his work in the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building.

"Jace supports us routinely," his letter of nomination stated.



Wainscott

"On March 5, he spent several hours repairing the display in Latimer-Smith 101. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics was hosting 24 high school students on campus for the Math Craft Laboratory (MCL) that day. Access to the closet with audiovisual equipment was blocked by the large MCL snacks table.

"Jace had to make several trips to the building to work around the MCL schedule. We appreciated his understanding of the guest students' needs. By the end of the day, he diagnosed and corrected the problem so that the room was ready for an important meeting hosted by university advancement on March 6."

The Skyhawk Spirit Award recognizes a faculty or staff member who goes above and beyond in creating positive, supportive, uplifting environments for students and colleagues.

It also rewards performance substantially beyond expectation on a specific assignment, task or goal as well as:

- Contributions that have significant impact department university objectives.
- Extraordinary efforts above and the normal responsibilities of position.
- For an employee who uses initiative creativity to solve challenging organizational



Williams

problem.

Those receiving a Skyhawk Spirit Award also receive a \$50 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

The Skyhawk Innovation Award honors individuals who demonstrate creativity, forward-thinking and problem-solving that positively impacts the campus or student experience.

The Skyhawk Innovation Award rewards those who:

- Introduced a new and innovative idea or process that significantly improves campus operations.
 - Demonstrated measurable success in improve efficiency, engagement or student experience.
 - Had an idea that is sustainable and will benefit UT Martin long-term.
 - Effectively worked with teams or departments to bring the innovation life.
 - Demonstrates measurable success in improve efficiency, engagement or student experience.
- Those who receive the Skyhawk Innovation Award also receive a \$250 cash award and a commemorative plaque.

Nomination forms for both awards can be found at www.utm.edu/skyhawk-spirit-award and should be submitted by the first Friday of the month for that month's nomination.



Jace Williams (right) is pictured with student assistant Hunter Farrell working on information technology issues March 5 at the Latimer-Smith Engineering and Science Building.

Faculty, students attend SAEA annual meeting



UT Martin faculty and students attending the Southern Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting Jan. 31-Feb. 3 in Louisville included (front row, l-r) Dr. Brittany Cole, assistant professor of finance; Dr. Rachna Tewari, professor of agricultural economics; junior economics major Reyna Joyner; first-year plant and soil science major Eden Myers; first-year economics major Bethany Maneiro; junior mechanical engineering major Sara Ullrich; senior accounting major Carley Pruet; senior agricultural business major Abigail Willard; Dr. Anthony Delmond, Hendrix Chair, associate professor of economics; Dr. Chuck Grigsby-Calage, assistant professor of agricultural economics; (back row, l-r) Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, interim dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs, professor of agricultural economics; senior economics major Trevor Johnson; sophomore economics major Paul Tolene; sophomore economics major Thomas Rogers; first-year agricultural business major Mason Lovell; and senior agricultural business major Sydney Campbell. Many of the UT Martin students took part in a "Jeopardy!" style quiz bowls with students from other universities.

Campus Calendar

Tuesday, March 31

- DASH Research Huron Grants and Agreements town hall, "Intro to HGA," 9-10 a.m. CT, virtual (no registration needed), click [here](#) to join the session.
- "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.

Wednesday, April 1

- [Captain's Challenge](#), all day. (Click on "Captain's

Challenge" or the Captain's Challenge ad on Page 4 to go to the Challenge website.)

- DASH Research Huron Grants and Agreements town hall, "Intro to HGA," 9-10 a.m. CT, virtual (no registration needed), click [here](#) to join the session.

Monday, April 6

- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee 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](mailto:addenda@utm.edu).*

You Tell Me

• **Question** – Veterans Park is located on Moody Street across from Graham Stadium and the Army ROTC offices. The space was formerly occupied by Grove Apartments. Can the space be reserved for activities, is there a charge for using the space, and how can the space be reserved?

• **Answer** – The space can be reserved. There is no charge for student organizations or university departments to reserve the space; however, charges for setup, cleanup, equipment, etc., may apply. You can check the availability of Veterans Park before requesting the space by contacting Lindee McCurley, assistant director of the Boling University Center, at 731-881-7766. You can find the request form on the university center website, or by clicking [here](#).

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

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