

# addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | April 6, 2026

## UT System administrators serve as CLA panel



Members of UT System President Randy Boyd's staff took part in a panel April 2 for the UT Martin Chancellor's Leadership Academy. Those attending the panel discussion were (seated, l-r) UT System administrators Dr. Bernie Savarese, vice president for academic affairs, research and student success; Dr. Linda Martin, executive vice president; David Miller, senior vice president and chief financial officer; President Randy Boyd; UT Martin Chancellor Yancy Freeman; and Dr. Brian Dickens, UT System chief human resources officer. Members of the UT Martin Chancellor's Leadership Academy include (back row, l-r) Dr. Jamie Mantooth, executive director of strategic leadership; Dr. Steve Elliott, professor and chair, Department of Mathematics and Statistics; Callie Smithson, business manager, Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources; Will Gibson, manager of Disability and Test Services, Access Resource Center; Dr. Henrietta Giles, assistant professor, Department of History and Philosophy; Dr. Brittany Cole, assistant professor, Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance; Lt. Chad Worley, Department of Public Safety; Dr. Kelli Deere, director of UTM Parsons Center; Tammy Stanford, assistant director of Success Counseling, Student Success Center; Dr. Margaret Lewis, professor, Department of History and Philosophy; Jennifer Schlicht, senior executive assistant, University Advancement; Dr. Ashley Bynum, assistant athletics director of compliance, Office of Intercollegiate Athletics; and Dr. Austin Ferrell, assistant professor, Department of Educational Studies.

At right, University of Tennessee System President Randy Boyd speaks with UT Martin Chancellor Yancy Freeman Sr. during his April 2 visit to the main campus for the Chancellor's Leadership Academy. The photo was taken during a safety tour provided by Dr. Michael O'Neill, director of the Department of Public Safety, who showed Boyd some of the security upgrades made to the Martin campus.



# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. David Carithers and Dr. Daniel Pigg, both professors of English, gave presentations focusing on the role of artificial intelligence in higher education at the 55th annual College English Association Conference, held March 26-28 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Carithers presented a case against the use of generative AI for student writing in "What Does it Mean to be Human?: A Declaration of AI Resistance and Refusal in First Year Composition."



Carithers

Pigg presented a mixed approach in "Incorporating AI on Selected Writing Assignments in a British Literature Survey Class:



Pigg

One Key for Reinvigorating Thoughtful Reflection."

Both papers were warmly received and elicited much discussion.



Guerrero

Dr. Pamela Guerrero will attend the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics Conference on Nonlinear Waves and Coherent Structures, an international conference to be held May 26-29 at Concordia University in Montréal, Canada.

This conference brings together researchers from around the world working in nonlinear waves, applied

analysis and related areas of applied mathematics, fostering interaction between theoretical and applied perspectives.

Guerrero's participation is supported by SIAM-U.S. National Science Foundation travel funding as well as a UT Martin Faculty Research and Development grant in the conference participation category.

Dr. Jason DeVito mentored senior mathematics major Joan West, who received the Undergraduate Paper Prize at the Mathematical Association of America South-eastern Section Conference, held March 26-28 at the University of North Alabama. West's paper, "Almost Positively Curved Generalized Eschenburg Spaces," contributes to research in differential geometry through the construction of new examples of manifolds with almost positive curvature. This recognition reflects DeVito's mentorship and the department's continued commitment to undergraduate research.



## Upcoming Skyhawk Home Events

### 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.

### April 10-12

- STUNT, Mid-America West Conference Championship, Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

### Friday, April 10

- \*Baseball vs. Tennessee Tech, 5 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.
- STUNT vs. Northern Kentucky, 6 p.m., Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

### Saturday, April 11

- \*Softball vs. Western Illinois, noon (dh), Bettye Giles Softball Field.
- Soccer vs. Kentucky Wesleyan, 2 p.m., Skyhawk Soccer Field (exhibition).
- \*Baseball vs. Tennessee Tech, 3 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

### Sunday, April 12

- \*Softball vs. Western Illinois, noon, Bettye Giles Softball Field.
- \*Baseball vs. Tennessee Tech, 1 p.m., Skyhawk Baseball Field.

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

Dates and times are subject to change.

# UTM students visit historic Alabama sites over spring break

Seven UTM students spent part of their spring break, March 24-27, visiting several sites in Montgomery and Memphis as part of a trip organized by the Weakley County Reconciliation Project.

**Dr. Henri Giles**, assistant professor of African American studies, organized the trip that included visits to the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Civil Rights Memorial Center and several Equal Justice Initiative sites in Montgomery.

The group went to the Legacy Museum, Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and Montgomery Square – the

newest EJI installation that chronicles the Montgomery Bus Boycott era.

The final day of the trip included a visit to the National Civil Rights Museum at the historic Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

Pictured at the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached from 1954 to 1960, are (front row, l-r) Travon Jones, Dr. Henri Giles, Lin Schaefer, (middle row, l-r) Eriona Pillow, Tyreke Jenkins, (back row, l-r) Tamera Harden, Jayla Cole and Rachel Shaikh.



# UT System partners with LifeGuides

LifeGuides, a new peer mentorship resource for all UT System employees, is available through UT’s Benefits Central intranet page.

LifeGuides connects system employees with experienced mentors who offer real-world insight, guidance and support, complementing existing resources like Employee Well-being Solutions and Here4TN.

Whether working toward a goal, navigating a challenge or simply need someone to talk to, LifeGuides can help.

This service includes:

- Completely confidential support from mentors with real-world experience.
- A wide variety of guides with strong credentials, education

and deep empathy.

- Preventative behavioral-health support to help address challenges early.

- No copays or co-insurance, with the first appointment available within 24 hours and unlimited access.

- A stigma-free, peer-mentoring experience.

Guides are also trained to identify when an escalation is necessary and connects to the appropriate clinical mental health services in the event of a crisis.

Access to the LifeGuides portal can be found on [the benefits page of the Employee Benefits Hub](#), where more information, including FAQs, can be found.

**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](mailto:ORSP@UTM.EDU)

# Captain's Challenge sets gifting, donor records



Jake Bynum, chief of staff for the Office of the Chancellor, brings it into the audience during the Captain's Challenge Karaoke held April 1 in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. The current tally for the 12th annual Captain's Challenge – UT Martin's annual gifting event – is \$689,537 in gifts from 1,924 donors, both Challenge records. Top recipients through Friday were athletics, with \$186,130 through 590 donors; the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, with \$118,310 through 306 donors; and campus-wide initiatives, with \$114,554 through 498 donors.

## Campus Calendar

### Monday, April 6

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

### Tuesday, April 7

- DASH Research, town hall series, 9-10 a.m., "Funding Proposals"; join session [here](#).
- Intercollegiate Review Board, 4 p.m., 124 Gooch Hall.

### Wednesday, April 8

- DASH Research, central office users webinar series, 9-11 a.m., "Funding Proposals, SA 424 and Multicampus"; join session [here](#).
- DASH support group open forum, 3 p.m., register by 3 p.m. [at this site](#).

### Thursday, April 9

- DASH Research, principal investigators and

- departmental users webinar series, 9-10 a.m., "Funding Proposals"; join session [here](#).
- Hawk Break, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Dunagan Alumni Center, \$9 per person.
- DASH prerequisites, 3-4 p.m., register [at this site](#).

### Monday, April 13

- DASH, recruiting, Part 1, 10-11:30 a.m., register [at this site](#) (participants must take part in Part 1 and Part 2).
- DASH, recruiting, Part 2, 3-4 p.m., register [at this site](#) (participants must take part in Part 1 and Part 2).

### Tuesday, April 14

- DASH Research, town hall series, 9-10 a.m., "Agreements"; join session [here](#).

### Wednesday, April 15

- DASH Research, central office users webinar series, 9-10 a.m., "Agreements in HGA"; join session [here](#).

### Thursday, April 16

- DASH Research, principal investigators and departmental users webinar series, 9-10 a.m., "Agreements"; join session [here](#).

### Tuesday, April 21

- DASH Research, town hall series, 9-10 a.m., "Lifecycle Actions and Integrations"; join session [here](#).
- "DISC in Action: Practical Tools for Supervisors and Leaders" training session, 10-11:30 a.m., 230 Boling University Center.

### Wednesday, April 22

- DASH Research, central office users webinar series, 9-11 a.m., "Awards and Award Modifications in HGA"; join session [here](#).

### Thursday, April 23

- DASH Research, principal investigators and departmental users webinar series, 9-10 a.m., "Lifecycle Actions and Integrations"; join session [here](#).
- DASH, hiring, 3-4 p.m., register [at this site](#).

### Wednesday, April 29

- DASH, compensation, 3-4 p.m., register [at this site](#).
- 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).*

# DASH Research training sessions announced

Following the recent announcement of the DASH Research town hall series introducing the Huron Grants and Agreements (HGA) system, the University of Tennessee System will offer a webinar series that shares more about how to use HGA in day-to-day work for principal investigators (PIs) and departmental staff.

HGA is the system used to manage research proposals, awards and agreements.

These webinars are designed specifically for those who support proposal development, agreement management and related processes, with practical, role-based guidance that can be applied right away.

Topics in this webinar series include:

- Reviews and approvals
- Funding proposals
- Agreements
- Lifecycle actions and integrations

Webinar sessions will be offered multiple times throughout April, May and June.

All sessions are virtual, and registration is not required. A full schedule, session details and join links are available on the HGA SharePoint site. Recordings will also be posted there after each session.

Upcoming webinars – with times given as Central Time – include:

- Tuesday, April 7, town hall series, “Funding Proposals,” 9-10 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 8, central office users, “Funding Proposals, SF424 and Multicampus,” 9-11 a.m.
- Thursday, April 9, PIs and departmental users, “Funding Proposals,” 9-10 a.m.; repeat session will be given Thursday, May 28, 9-10 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 14, town hall series,

“Agreements,” 9-10 a.m.

- Wednesday, April 15, central office users, “Agreements in HGA,” 9-10 a.m.

- Thursday, April 16, PIs and departmental users, “Agreements,” 9-10 a.m.; repeat session will be given Thursday, June 4, 9-10 a.m.

- Tuesday, April 21, town hall series, “Lifecycle Actions and Integrations,” 9-10 a.m.

- Wednesday, April 22, central office users, “Awards and Award Modifications in HGA,” 9-11 a.m.

- Thursday, April 23, PIs and departmental users, “Lifestyle Actions and Integrations,” 9-10 a.m.; repeat session will be given Thursday, June 11, 9-10 a.m.

- Thursday, May 21, PIs and departmental users, “Reviews and Approvals in HGA,” 9-10 a.m. (repeat session from April 2).

The full list of sessions and links to each session can be found [at this site](#).

Other sessions regarding DASH and its use include:

- Support group open forum: Wednesday, April 8, 3-4 p.m., register by 3 p.m., April 8 [at this site](#); join the Office of Human Resources and the Office of Finance and Administration for an open DASH Support Forum. This is a space for employees to share their experiences with DASH, from frustrations and challenges to solutions and successes.

- Prerequisites: Thursday, April 9, 3-4 p.m.; this introductory overview helps non-human resources staff understand the activities and functions and associated processes for human resources actions as well as the key vocabulary and terminology

used for HR transactions; register [at this site](#).

- Recruiting, Part 1: Monday, April 13, 10-11:30 a.m.; this session guides staff through the end-to-end process for creating and advertising new or reclassified positions. Participants will learn all the steps to advertise or post a job, attract applicants, and confidently navigate DASH using “Request A New Position” workflow; register [at this site](#). If participating, it is important to join Parts 1 and 2.

- Recruiting, Part 2: Monday, April 13, 3-4 p.m.; this session is designed to help staff understand the specific process for searched jobs that are vacant or will soon be vacant. Participants will learn all the steps and actions to advertise the role, get applicants to apply and then navigate DASH using “Request A Position Change” workflow; register [at this site](#). If participating, it is important to join Parts 1 and 2.

- Hiring: Thursday, April 23, 3-4 p.m.; this session is designed to facilitate the steps and actions needed to hire from either a searched or a non-searched position. Participants will utilize process flows and steps to navigate in DASH to take all the steps needed for the onboarding phase; register [at this site](#).

- Compensation: Thursday, April 29, 3-4 p.m.; this session equips staff to initiate and manage compensation changes for staff. Participants will learn to identify when compensation actions are required – whether for hiring, salary changes or position changes – and master the specific actions needed to successfully execute them accurately in DASH; register [at this site](#).

## You Tell Me

• **Question** – Gooch Hall is named for the late Cecil M. and Boyce A. Gooch of Memphis. Who were the Gooches?

• **Answer** – Cecil M. and Boyce A. Gooch are remembered for their generosity to education in the Mid-South. Generations of UT Martin students continue to benefit from that generosity in the form of Gooch Scholarships that were made possible through an original \$2 million bequest by Cecil Gooch, a successful lumber and logging business owner, after he died in 1969. Boyce Gooch approved creation of a new endowment that assured Gooch Scholarships would continue in perpetuity. She is remembered as UTM’s first million-dollar donor and visited the campus when Gooch Hall was dedicated Sept. 9, 1976.

Submit your questions to Addenda at [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu).

## addenda

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