UT Martin faculty members receive awards from American Chemical Society

Drs. Robbie Montgomery, Abigail Shelton and Phil Davis, faculty members of the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Chemistry and Physics, received two ChemLuminary awards during the most recent national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia, Penn.

The team’s program, “Children’s Science Centers,” was named a finalist in three ChemLuminary divisions and brought home awards in the “Most Innovative New Project” and “Fostering Interactions Between Local Sections and Student Chapters” categories. These awards recognize successful events and programs hosted by the society’s 185 local sections.

Montgomery and Shelton received an Innovative Project Grant from the Kentucky Lake Section of the American Chemical Society for 2015, which was used to create the children’s science centers. These special activities were held during each of the section’s seven meetings in 2015 and allowed members with young children to participate in the proceedings while their children learned about chemistry and science at the same location.

The centers were designed by Montgomery, Shelton and Davis and led by Davis and a group of student volunteers from the UT Martin Department of Chemistry and Physics. Topics included the periodic table, the chemistry of candy, light and sound, bubbles, women in science, the Nobel Prize, and mass and measurements.

Applications for the 2017 Giving Circle grant program must be submitted to the UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts via Evisions by Oct. 28 for review. For more information, contact Jennifer Cooper at 731-881-7011.
YoUTMs

Jackie Johnson (above), previously coordinator of dual enrollment with the Office of Educational Outreach, has accepted a position as associate director of alumni programs. She will provide oversight to the statewide UT Martin alumni chapter program, electronic alumni communications and the Young Alumni Council. This new position became effective Oct. 3.

Christina Collier (not pictured) fills Johnson’s previous position as dual enrollment coordinator. Christina holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Murray State University and a master’s degree in accounting from UT Martin.

A group of UT Martin faculty and students recently attended the Geological Society of America’s annual meeting in Denver, Colo., and presented three papers during their visit. “XRCT as a Non-Destructive Way to Study Siderite Nodules: An Example from Pennsylvania Deltaic Systems in Alabama” was co-authored by Brandt Gibson, a 2015 UT Martin alum and current student at Vanderbilt University; Dr. Michael Gibson (above, left), UT Martin professor of geoscience; and Dr. Simon Darroch, Vanderbilt assistant professor of earth and environmental sciences. “Crustal Structure of Dextral Transpressive Fault Systems: Comparison of the Norumbega Fault, Maine, and the Chugach Metamorphic Complex Shear Zone System, Alaska” was written by Dr. Benjamin Hooks (not pictured), assistant professor of geoscience. “Water Quality Assessments Associated with the Obion River Watershed, Northwestern Tennessee” was co-authored by UT Martin students Hunter Herring, Matthew Adams, Jeffrey Woodall and Rachael Wolters with faculty members Dr. Stan Dunagan (above, center), associate professor of geoscience, and Dr. Robbie Montgomery (above, right), associate professor of chemistry.

The Addenda newsletter is published weekly during the academic year. Send your Addenda news to Erin Chesnut at echesnut@utm.edu by noon on Thursdays.
UT Martin named one of America’s 100 Best College Buys for 11th consecutive year

The University of Tennessee at Martin is listed among “America’s 100 Best College Buys,” compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation, Inc., for the 11th consecutive year. UT Martin is one of four institutions listed from Tennessee.

“When value is defined as an exceptional return on investment, ‘America’s 100 Best College Buys – 2017’ proves that for the 11th consecutive year students at the University of Tennessee at Martin can be assured of the high value of their educational opportunity,” said Lewis Lindsey Jr., IRE president.

“Providing a high-quality educational environment at the lowest possible cost is the result of planning and efficiency. (This listing) proves that the students at the University of Tennessee at Martin continue to benefit from the strategic decisions made to provide the highest quality education at the lowest cost.”

An institution must be an accredited, four-year institution offering bachelor’s degrees and full residential facilities, including residence halls and dining services, to be considered for this listing.

The institution must also have had an entering freshman class in fall 2015 with a high school grade point average and/or SAT/ACT score equal to or above the national average for entering college freshmen.

Also, the out-of-state cost of attendance in 2016-17 for three quarters or two semesters must be below the national average cost of attendance or not exceed the national average cost by more than 10 percent.

“UT Martin is continuously recognized as a place to receive a high-quality education at a reasonable price,” said Dr. Bob Smith, UT Martin interim chancellor. “Now with the recent reduction of out-of-state tuition, an even wider range of students can have access to UT Martin’s top-notch faculty and hands-on learning opportunities.”

This recognition follows two listings announced in September. UT Martin continued as a top university for public master’s level institutions in the South, according to U.S. News & World Report.

UT Martin was ranked 16th, up from number 19 in the 2016 ranking. The university also appeared among southern regional institutions in the “Best Colleges for Veterans” category.

The Princeton Review also named the university among the “Best in the Southeast” for the 14th consecutive year.

Closing the Loop

This feature recognizes offices and departments that have used data to make informed decisions for the positive impact of their area.

Office of Alumni Relations

The Office of Alumni Relations noticed a correlation between the number of private scholarships awarded to incoming freshmen and the percentage of those students who return for their sophomore and subsequent years.

In 2013, UT Martin’s overall freshman retention rate was 69.9 percent, and just over 72 percent of that freshman class received scholarship aid. By 2015, the university’s freshman retention rate had risen to 74.5 percent, with 76.4 of those students receiving assistance from private scholarships.

Using this data, the office is able to advocate for increased funding of private scholarships and grants for eligible incoming students.

Potential donors are more likely to consider supporting students through annual and endowed scholarships when advocates can present data showing such support makes a tangible difference in the overall education for the students selected.

University gifts can be made on a one-time basis or be deducted from an employee’s paycheck and applied toward a particular fund or scholarship. For more information, visit utm.edu/giving.
UT Martin and the Tennessee Renewable Energy and Economic Development Council will co-host a forum from 8:30-11:30 a.m., Oct. 13, on the topic of conserving West Tennessee’s energy footprint.

The forum, held in Watkins Auditorium of UT Martin’s Boling University Center, is free and open to the public.

Brian Stone, of NORESCO, LLC, will address energy contracting for community facilities, and James Talley, of Hannah Solar in Atlanta, Ga., will discuss case studies in solar power from Hawkins County, Tenn., and Tybee Island, Ga.

Rat Riley, director of Gibson County Utilities, will later present on using compressed natural gas for university fleets, and Warren Nevad, of the UT Martin Municipal Technical Advisory Service, will discuss the Port of Cates Landing municipal waste-to-energy project.

Dr. Doug Sterrett, professor of engineering at UT Martin, will also explain the solar energy art project recently constructed outside UT Martin’s Boling University Center.

UT Martin’s mobile energy classroom, financed through a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, will also be on display. The project, led by John Cole and co-authored by Drs. Paula Gale and Rachna Tewari, all from the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources, includes both static and hands-on demonstrations of current energy production, conservation and renewable technology.

Pre-registration is not required to attend. For more information, contact Gale at 731-881-7326 or pgale@utm.edu, or Cole at 731-881-7264 or jcole42@utm.edu.
Homecoming 2016: Superheroes with Captain Skyhawk

(clockwise from top left) Pi Kappa Alpha competes in the fraternity Rope Pull division; (l-r) David Murphy, Dr. Karoline Pershell, Dr. Bob Smith and Bobby Goode are pictured after the alumni awards ceremony; (l-r) Linda Barker, Don Chapman, Amy Goff Waldron and Katie Behrens were inducted into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame; the Skyhawks defeat APSU 45-31; alumni and their families play a variety of games during the annual Quad City; Greek organizations compete in the annual pyramid competition and National Panhellenic Council step show.
PARENT AND FAMILY RECEPTION – Some familiar faces were seen at the Office of Undergraduate Admissions’ first Parent and Family Reception event Oct. 3. Dr. Tom Blanchard (left), professor of biological sciences, was among the crowd with his daughter, Avery Blanchard, a student at Westview High School. The event was held to give parents of prospective students a one-stop shop to have questions answered on a variety of topics including academic programs, financial aid, student housing and campus amenities.

You Tell Me

UT Martin Q&A

• **Question** – Does UT Martin still use a compost pile to dispose of food waste?

• **Answer** – UT Martin used a compost pile located on the teaching farm property until budget reductions in 2015 reduced staff at the UT Martin Recycling Center. The campus does not currently compost food waste, however it is hoped this practice will resume when manpower and funding become available.

Submit your questions to the Suggestion Box link at www.utm.edu.

Calendar

• Oct. 11 – Clerical and support staff coffee; Boling University Center, room 206ABC; 9-10:30 a.m.
• Oct. 11 – Employee benefits fair; Duncan Ballroom; 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
• Oct. 11 – Women’s Center speaker series: “Women leaders from around the world”; Gooch Hall, room 322; 12:20-12:50 p.m.
• Oct. 13-14 – UT Board of Trustees fall meeting; Knoxville
• Oct. 14 – Volleyball vs. Tennessee State; Skyhawk Fieldhouse; 6 p.m.
• Oct. 14 – Soccer vs. Eastern Kentucky; Skyhawk Soccer Complex; 7 p.m.
• Oct. 15 – Volleyball vs. Belmont; Skyhawk Fieldhouse; 2 p.m.
• Oct. 16 – Soccer vs. Tennessee Tech; Skyhawk Soccer Complex; 1 p.m.
• Oct. 17-18 – Fall break; no classes, administrative offices are open

Fall Preview Days

Oct. 29 & Nov. 12
Register at utm.edu/previewday