UT prepares for returning students amidst COVID-19

As the University of Tennessee System prepares to welcome students and faculty back to its campuses across the state, UT System President Randy Boyd is urging students, faculty and staff to talk with their families and healthcare providers about the benefits of receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

“We are excited to have our campus communities together this fall and are planning full campus experiences across the UT System. With the Delta variant spreading in our state and communities, we want to help ensure the safest return possible,” Boyd said. “The best way to take care of each other as we return to campus is to first take care of ourselves by getting the COVID-19 vaccine.”

Campuses will also begin the semester with masks required in classrooms, laboratories, instructional spaces and any indoor events students are required to attend. Specific plans and guidelines will be announced at each campus location in the coming days, and mask requirements will be continuously re-evaluated. Students are encouraged to take precautions to manage their own health.

Campus locations include UT Knoxville, UT Institute of Agriculture, UT Chattanooga, UT Martin, UT Southern and the UT Health Science Center.

For more information, contact Melissa Tindell or Jennifer Sicking at mtindell@tennessee.edu or jsicking@tennessee.edu respectively.

For the most recent message to the UT Martin campus on Coronavirus policies, check www.utm.edu/coronavirus.

UT Martin will host its annual Family Weekend event Sept. 10-12. The list of events includes food trucks, live music, the Bowtie 5K, tailgating and the UT Martin vs. Samford football game in Hardy Graham Stadium.

Family Weekend packages are $25 each and include a Family Weekend T-shirt, tickets for the football game, concert and tailgate party, and vouchers for the food trucks and coffee at Vantage Coffee Roasters. UTM students will be admitted to the football game and concert with a student ID and have the opportunity to receive a free Family Weekend T-shirt, so they do not need to purchase packages. Packages can be ordered online at www.utm.edu/familyweekend.

A barbecue lunch is provided from noon-1:30 p.m., Sept. 11, for $7 a person, and the closing Bowtie Brunch is provided from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sept.12, for $12 a person. Participants must pay at the door.

A full schedule of events is as follows:

**Friday, Sept. 10**
• 4:46 p.m. – Family Weekend opens at the Tennessee Soybean Festival in downtown Martin. Check in at the new Martin Public Library and then enjoy dinner at one of the festival’s food trucks.
• 6 p.m. – Family Weekend Concert at the Tennessee Soybean Festival.

**Saturday, Sept. 11**
• 7 a.m. – Bowtie 5K registration begins.
• 9:30 a.m.-noon – Donuts with Deans come-and-go event, Vantage Coffee Roasters.
• Noon-4 p.m. – Concurrent events: Barbecue lunch, Skyhawk Dining Hall; Roller Skate Party, Duncan Ballroom, Boling University Center; Skyhawk Bingo, Boling University Center 206ABC, Campus Feud game show, Watkins Auditorium.
• 4 p.m.-5:45 p.m. – Luau Tailgate Party, Hardy Graham Stadium; the Travelin’ Max show will take place during this time.
• 6 p.m. – UT Martin football vs. Samford University, Hardy Graham Stadium.

**Sunday, Sept. 12**
• 9:30 a.m. – Student-led non-denominational worship service, Watkins Auditorium.
• 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. – Bowtie Brunch, Skyhawk Dining Hall.
• 1 p.m. – Skyhawk Soccer vs. Western Carolina, Skyhawk Soccer Field.

For more information or to register, visit www.utm.edu/familyweekend or contact John Abel at jabell1@utm.edu or 731-881-7710.
YoUTMs highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Anita H. Rogers, lecturer of nursing at the Parsons Center, recently had an article entitled “Scoping Review of Family Caregivers’ Trust in Long-Term Care Homes” published in the June edition of Perspectives, the official journal of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association.

Dr. Shadow Robinson, professor of engineering and dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, recently had an article entitled “On the Vibrational Model of 92Pd and Comparison with 48Cr” published in The International Journal of Modern Physics E. You can read the article here.

Dr. Jason DeVito, professor of mathematics and statistics, has been awarded a National Science Foundation Topology grant for his proposal “RUI: Biquotients, Cohomogeneity One Manifolds, and Double Disk Bundles.” This award represents the first NSF award supporting individual research at UT Martin in eight years.

Let the UT Martin community know about your most recent accolades by submitting a YoUTM. Email us at addenda@utm.edu.

Mary Ruth Gibbons, assistant professor emeritus of nursing, passed away July 20. She taught at the university from Sept. 1, 1980 until her retirement June 30, 2007. Services will be held at a later date at Pine View Church of Christ in Searcy, Arkansas.

John Clark, interim chairholder for the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking; Dr. Mark Farley, assistant professor of finance; and Dr. Lajuan Davis, professor of business communication advised UT Martin’s first-place student team at the 2021 Community Bank Case Study Competition. Traci Crawford, Clark’s administrative assistant, also helped students prepare for the competition. The team competed in three rounds of judging by banking professionals and overcame a pool of 35 student teams representing 29 colleges and universities.

UT MARTIN BLOOD DRIVE
Sept. 7-9
Boling University Center
All donors will receive a free T-shirt.
The 23rd Annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference will be held Wednesday, Aug. 11, at UT Martin in the Boling University Center’s Watkins Auditorium. The conference will run from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and will feature up-to-date information and insights on global economics, trade, agricultural markets, weather and climate change, and how these factors impact business. The conference is hosted by the university’s Horace and Sarah Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources. Registration is open through Aug. 4. The registration fee is $200 for lenders, $100 for farmers and producers, and $50 for students and spouses. To register, go to www.utm.edu/agconference.

Featured speakers include Dr. David Kohl, professor emeritus of agricultural and applied economics at Virginia Tech University; Richard Brock, owner and president of Brock Associates; and Dr. Eric Snodgrass, principal atmospheric scientist at Nutrien Ag Solutions. Kohl will serve as keynote speaker, a role he has held every year since the conference’s inception in 1999. For more information, contact Traci Crawford, Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference program coordinator, at tcrawf19@utm.edu or 731-225-7350.

Paul Meek Library offers information literacy courses fall 2021

The Paul Meek Library is scheduling in-class information literacy sessions for the fall semester. Sessions include a wide variety of topics, from finding sources in discipline-specific databases and evaluating current news articles, to reading scholarly articles and understanding data privacy. Additionally, a series of “Info Lit Bits” packaged as short, ready-to-go instruction videos can be embedded in Canvas for student assignments in advance of student interaction with a librarian. Popular videos include the “Differences between the Library and Google” and a general “Library Tour.”

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the library taught 91 information literacy sessions, reaching over 900 students. Results of a short survey issued at the end of each session indicate that more than 80% of students felt increased confidence in their ability to complete assignments involving research. Confidence rates were particularly high for upper-level students, but strong percentages in freshman and sophomore students confirm the value of information literacy instruction at all levels.

Library faculty also teach a GENS 150 course titled “Information Literacy and Research Skills.” Designed to help students develop research skills using library resources, it focuses on effectively accessing and evaluating print and electronic sources for use in research projects and other academic endeavors. Modules this past spring semester included: Intro to Libraries and Information, Searching, Reading and Evaluating, Plagiarism and Citations, News and Bias, Google and our Algorithm World, and Intellectual Property. Instead of a final exam, students do a final project where they must identify how they will use three information literacy skills in their future career. Offered as a 2-credit course in the 2nd half of both the fall and spring semesters, it has also been useful to students encountering academic difficulty and having to drop a course mid-semester.

For more information and to schedule a session with a faculty librarian, contact Erin Weber, information literacy librarian, at (731) 881-7093 or eweber5@utm.edu.
“Everywhere you look, UT” Tour Starts Aug. 3

The unique stories of how the University of Tennessee System serves the state of Tennessee will come to life beginning in August as part of the “Everywhere you look, UT” tour.

Beginning Aug. 3, UT System President Randy Boyd will travel to more than 50 counties during the next three months learning and celebrating UT’s impact across Tennessee.

“Everywhere you look, we are making a sizeable impact in the communities we serve,” Boyd said. “I’m looking forward to visiting with our state’s difference-makers and community leaders as we remember the important role our campuses and institutes play in Tennessee.”

The tour comes to Weakley County on Aug. 25 with a stop at the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center (REED Center) in downtown Martin. The tour will also make a stop at the UT Martin Ripley Center Sept. 2 as well as a stop at the UT Martin Parsons Center Sept. 30.

For more information on upcoming visits, please visit everywhere.tennessee.edu/tour. Media wishing to participate in these events must RSVP in advance by contacting Melissa Tindell at mtindell@tennessee.edu.

Free COVID-19 testing available Aug. 4-5

UT Martin faculty and staff will be able to access self-administering COVID-19 test kits in the Garden Room of the Alumni Center Aug. 4-5. The Offices of Human Resources and Environmental Health and safety, which are sponsoring the event, ask that employees register on the UT K@te portal at least 24 hours ahead, as tests are limited.

Upon registration, a video about how to administer the test will be sent out. A second email will be sent out before appointment dates with information on how to register the COVID-19 testing kit and what table to go to in the Dunagan Alumni Center.

Masks are required at all times except when administering the test. Those attending should also wash their hands before attending and arrive five minutes before their designated appointment time.

For more information, contact Michael S. Washington, director of human resources and payroll, at mwashi24@utm.edu or Holly Rowan, emergency management coordinator at hrowan@utm.edu.

You Tell Me

• Question – Why not just produce a digital version of Campus Scene alumni magazine and save the production costs?

• Answer – The offices of Alumni Relations and University Relations paid for a survey of Campus Scene readers by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and received results earlier in 2021. Responses to the following question received the responses noted: Do you prefer to read your Campus Scene (1) in print – 68.6%; (2) online, including mobile devices – 10.7%; and (3) both – 20.7%. Print is clearly the preferred delivery method for Campus Scene readers, but the magazine is also offered digitally for those who wish to access the magazine online at www.utm.edu/campusscene. The magazine is published twice per year.

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