

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | May 9, 2022

UTM HOLDS SPRING COMMENCEMENT



Chancellor Keith Carver fist bumps Bria McCay during the 10 a.m. ceremony, Saturday, May 7, in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Carver was speaker for each commencement ceremony, basing his message to graduates on a series of song lyrics from artists ranging from Drake to Post Malone, to the Eagles and Kool and the Gang.

UT Martin's spring commencement exercises began with the first of three ceremonies, Friday, May 6, at 6 p.m. in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center by recognizing

graduates receiving master's degrees. Undergraduate students received their degrees during the two Saturday ceremonies.

Each ceremony was livestreamed on the UT Martin

Facebook page and YouTube channel. Graduates represented 65 Tennessee counties, 31 states and the District of Columbia, and three countries outside of the U.S. Participants for the

three ceremonies totaled 598 graduates.

Chancellor Keith Carver was speaker for each commencement ceremony, basing his message to graduates on a series of song lyrics from artists ranging from Drake to Post Malone, to the Eagles and Kool and the Gang. The artists' photos were displayed on the arena's digital board as he transitioned from one set of song lyrics to another. His commencement address can be viewed at www.facebook.com/utmartin and www.youtube.com/utmartin where the ceremonies are archived. A Spotify playlist featuring the songs is found at <https://spotify.fi/3yrcLW9>.

Each ceremony also featured several speakers who appeared virtually on Skyhawk Arena's digital board. The Rev. Sam Chambers, campus minister for the UT Martin Wesley Foundation, offered the invocation, and UT System President Randy Boyd and UT Martin Alumni Council

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UT Martin online MBA program earns national ranking

[Fortune.com](https://fortune.com) ranked the University of Tennessee at Martin's online MBA program 68th nationally in their "Best Online MBA Programs in 2022" list. UT Martin was the highest-ranked Tennessee university included on the list.

Due to the rise in online

education during the pandemic, Fortune released its first-ever ranking of online MBA programs in 2021. April 2022 marked Fortune's second year to release the "Best Online MBA Programs" list. The programs were ranked based on three components: Program

Score, Fortune 1000 Score and Brand Score. The final ranking was determined by submitted questionnaires and data collected from companies and executives.

"The recent news about our MBA program's ranking brought excitement and joy to our faculty and staff," said Dr.

Ahmad Tootoonchi, College of Business and Global Affairs dean. "It reflects our collective commitment to the quality program and is a tribute to our faculty, staff and students for their dedication to preserve the

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Dr. Adam Wilson, Chad McDaniel, and Dr. Bonnie Daniel presented a session entitled, "Integrating Community and Reflection to Transform Practice" at the recent Innovative Teaching and Learning Conference sponsored by UT Knoxville. The session highlighted a pilot implementation of Teaching Squares, faculty peer observations, in online courses. The virtual conference drew 500 participants from multiple states.



Dual Enrollment students present at Writing Conference

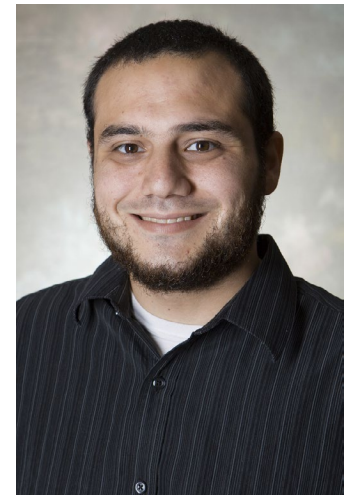
Five local high school students were recognized at the UT Martin Interdisciplinary Student Writing Conference on Wednesday, April 20. The ISWC celebrates outstanding student writing from all disciplines and is open to any

UT Martin enrolled student. Destiny Griffin and Will Harris, of Greenfield High School, were invited to present their submissions. Additionally, Griffin was chosen as a category

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Evan Sherman, a mathematics and statistics major, won the Walt and Sue Patterson Prize for his presentation at the Southeastern MAA Conference. The conference was held on March 11-12, 2022, at Berry College in Rome, Georgia. His presentation described research conducted with **Dr. Jason DeVito**, associate professor of mathematics and statistics, who accompanied Sherman to the conference.

Evan and Dr. DeVito have also written a paper about the research that has been accepted for publication. The title of both the paper and presentation is "Quasi-positive curvature on Bazaikin spaces," and the paper has been accepted for publication in *The Annals of Global Analysis and Geometry*. The Southeastern MAA is an



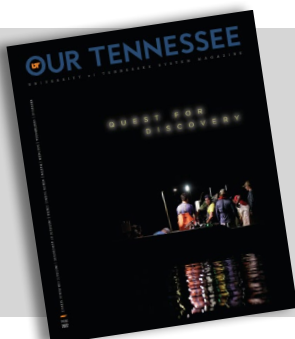
affiliate of the Mathematical Association of America and covers Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Evan is the son of **Dr. Todd Sherman**, chair, Department of Health and Human Performance.

The UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development recently awarded Summer 2022 interns with scholarships. A total of 26 students applied and 26 scholarships were offered. Awards ranged from \$200 to \$1,000, and totaled \$21,780. Nineteen interns will be working in Tennessee, five out of state and one in South Africa. Of the 19 in state, three will be located in Martin. For more information, contact CPAD at career@utm.edu.



CPAD Director Demetrius Robinson (left), awards a scholarship to Zaria Marshall



QUEST FOR DISCOVERY

The latest issue of *Our Tennessee*, the UT System's magazine for alumni, is out, and it contains two feature stories about research work involving UT Martin students, faculty and staff. Physical copies are mailed to all departments on campus, and you can see the stories online at our.tennessee.edu.

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President Mark Joyner, of Paducah, provided comments to the graduating class. Student Government Association President Sidney Church, of Santa Fe, a graduating senior, spoke in person to the class from the commencement stage.

Boyd urged graduates to keep three goals in mind: “Honor the past, relish in the present, and look to the future with great anticipation and hope.” He noted that University of Tennessee graduates across the state will receive degrees during May. “What you all have in common is you’re leaving the university better than it was when you arrived,” he said.

Church graduated during the third ceremony and shared at each event advice and wisdom that she had gained from her father. She spoke of passion for his vocation, his strong work ethic and his wisdom for recognizing that each day is an opportunity to start anew. “Bad days are inevitable. You’re going to have them, but you’re going to have good days, too,” she said, recalling her father’s positive outlook. “Even on your worse days, it’s important to remember that tomorrow will come, and it will be a new day with new possibilities.”

Joyner closed by asking three things of the new graduates: “Be an advocate for UT Martin. ... Stay in touch. ... Get involved.” Joyner added, “A university is only as good as its graduates, and from this point forward, your accomplishments, achievements and the way in which you live will reflect upon the educational values of the University of Tennessee at Martin.” Each ceremony ended with the UTM Virtual Choir performing the Alma Mater, which was recorded and edited by 2010 UT Martin graduate Joseph Sam.

MBA from PAGE 1

program’s reputation.”

The MBA program is housed in the College of Business and Global Affairs and is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, AACSB International. Open to students in all fields, the program is cohort-based, with approximately 25 students per cohort. The program is designed to be completed in as few as 18 months.

For more information, contact **Jennifer Killebrew**, MBA program and student services coordinator, at 731-881-7208.

Student-based insect research to be discussed May 19 at Martin Public Library



In this file photo, Hannah Trimble and Dr. Jack Grubaugh study flesh-eating beetles as part of a forensics research project to determine the appearance date of the insects in the post-mortem interval in a controlled environment. Trimble conducted the study as her University Scholars research project with the guidance of Grubaugh.

Dr. Jack Grubaugh, professor of aquatic ecology, entomology and mammalogy in the UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, will discuss research conducted by past and current UT Martin students at 6 p.m., May 19, at the Martin Public Library. His presentation is the final program of the UT Martin Research Series.

Grubaugh will cover research about the hide beetle, a flesh-eating insect. He will also discuss the USDA surveys that UT Martin students are conducting to monitor the presence of invasive moths and beetles throughout West Tennessee.

During his tenure at UT Martin,

Grubaugh has served as chair for the Department of Biological Sciences and has won funding from several federal, state and municipal agencies. He has also provided assessment of local and regional natural resources and indigenous wildlife in his work as a consultant.

Grubaugh’s presentation is open to the public and co-sponsored by the Martin Public Library, the Friends of the Martin Public Library, UT Martin’s Division of Academic Affairs and the Paul Meek Library. For more information, contact **Dr. Erik Nordberg**, dean of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070.

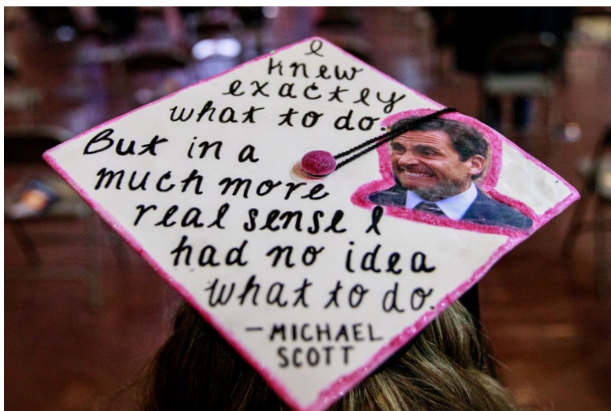
Addenda will be taking a short hiatus following this week’s issue. We will resume publishing in June.

Thanks for a great semester!

spring 2022 COMMENCEMENT



UT Martin held its spring commencement exercises May 6-7. Graduates represented 65 Tennessee counties, 31 states and the District of Columbia, and three countries outside of the U.S. Participants for the three ceremonies totaled 598 graduates. For more photos from commencement, visit utm.edu/photo.





EDUCATORS SESSION – Several UT Martin faculty and staff attended an educators session with the Tennessee National Guard on Tuesday, May 3. Pictured (l-r) are Sergeant First Class Tyler Shaw, Tennessee National Guard; Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, dean, College of Business and Global Affairs; Demetrius Robinson, director, Career Planning and Development; Cindy West, dean, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences; Rachel Stephens, interim director, Student Life; and Ryan Martin, director of housing.



TOWN AND GOWN MEETS – The UT Martin and City of Martin Town and Gown Association met May 3 for its quarterly breakfast meeting at the Dunagan Alumni Center. The program included updates from Martin Mayor Randy Brundige and Chancellor Keith Carver and a TEST Hub update from Dr. Shadow Robinson (above), dean, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences. The TEST Hub was recently funded by the Tennessee General Assembly and, once completed, the \$18 million facility will support workforce and economic development in the region. The Town and Gown Association provides a network of resources for students, faculty, staff, businesses and residents to collaborate services, events, programs, recreation, commerce and education to create an improved quality of life for the university and community. Future sessions are being planned for August and November. The Office of Research, Outreach, and Economic Development assists with coordinating events and communications. Learn more about association [here](#).



CEHBS AWARDS – The UT Martin College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences 2022 award recipients were given certificates by Cindy West, dean, May 4, at a luncheon in their honor. Dr. Cassandra Burks, assistant professor of nursing, received the Teaching Award for outstanding teaching. Dr. Brian Donavant, professor of criminal justice, received the Service Award for outstanding service. Melanie Morris, advisor for Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, received the Excellence Award for outstanding performance of unexpected challenges. Sheila Scott, administrative specialist for CEHBS, received the Excellence Award for outstanding performance of unexpected challenges. Dr. Michael Spaulding, professor of instructional technology, received the Service Award for outstanding service. Dr. Timothy Dasinger, assistant professor of health and human performance, who was unable to attend the luncheon, received the Scholarship Award for outstanding scholarship. Each award recipient will be featured on the college's Wall of Excellence. Pictured (l-r) are Sheila Scott, administrative specialist; Dr. Michael Spaulding, professor of instructional technology; Dr. Brian Donavant, professor of criminal justice; Melanie Morris, advisor for Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies; and Dr. Cassandra Burks, assistant professor of nursing.



Pictured (l-r) are Bradford High School students Emily Warren, Morgan Hickerson and Rebecca Walter with adjunct lecturer Jane Nordberg.

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winner in the personal essay/memoir category, for which she received a monetary award.

Morgan Hickerson, Rebecca Walter and Emily Warren of Bradford High School also presented research papers at the conference.

All five submissions were nominated by UT Martin adjunct lecturer Jane Nordberg and were written as coursework for Dual Enrollment English 111.

“We congratulate these students whose work competed with that of

upper-level UT Martin students, many of whom are English majors,” said UT Martin Director for the Office of Regional Centers and Online Programs Erica Bell. “Their participation introduced them to the format of academic conferences and provided them with a great opportunity to share their research and writing with a wider audience.”

For more information on the Interdisciplinary Student Writing Conference, contact **Dr. Richard Garlitz**, professor of history and philosophy, at rgarlitz@utm.edu.



COFFEE WITH CARVER – The Office of Human Resources is glad to share our most recent Coffee with Carver, an event that allows new employees to meet with Chancellor Keith Carver and discuss his vision and their roles at the university. The event on March 11 was conducted virtually. In lieu of the formal group picture, individuals took selfies with their complimentary “Coffee with Carver” mugs. Pictured (top row) Demetrius Robinson, Office of Career Planning and Development; Heather Kingery, Office of Disability Services; Dr. Mary Giles, Department of Educational Studies; (bottom row) Eryn Tyner, Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship; Jasmin Hampton, College of Business and Global Affairs; Dr. Jian Wang, Department of Computer Science. Also in attendance but not pictured: Chancellor Keith Carver; and hosts Michael Washington and Lori Beth Jones, Office of Human Resources.



ON THE ROAD – Chancellor Keith Carver was the featured speaker May 4 for the Benton County Schools Academic Awards Ceremony at Camden Central High School. In addition to his remarks, the event included several award presentations and recognitions. Destin Tucker, director of undergraduate admissions, also attended the event. Carver is pictured with Shawn McDowell, Camden High School principal. (Photo courtesy of Destin Tucker)

You Tell Me

• **Question** – I’ve noticed since the pedestrian signal lights have been placed on University Street at the crosswalks that they do not always work properly. Several times I’ve seen someone ready to cross and the lights not blinking, and sometimes they are blinking and the pedestrian is halfway up the sidewalk between Brehm Hall and Hall-Moody buildings. I’m concerned they may do more harm than good if not working properly.

• **Answer** – As a result of this question, all of the pedestrian signal lights were checked, and all are working on a 30- or 35- second rotation, except the westbound lights going to Gooch Hall. Parts are ordered to fix the unit but won’t be in immediately. These are the same lights damaged few months ago by an impaired driver. These should all be back up and running in 30 to 45 days.

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

addenda

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