



UT MARTIN BECOMES BEE CAMPUS USA AFFILIATE



THINGS ARE BUZZING – In this file photo, a bee visits a UT Martin campus flower. The university has become an affiliate of the Bee Campus USA program, designed to marshal the strengths of educational campuses for the benefit of pollinators.

UT Martin has become an affiliate of the Bee Campus USA program, designed to marshal the strengths of educational campuses for the benefit of pollinators. UT Martin joins other cities and college campuses across the country united in improving their landscapes for pollinators.

Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA are initiatives of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a

nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon, with offices across the country. Bee City USA's mission is to galvanize communities and campuses to sustain pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants, and free of pesticides.

According to the Xerces Society, pollinators like bumble bees, sweat bees, mason bees, honeybees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, hummingbirds,

and many others are responsible for the reproduction of almost 90% of the world's flowering plant species and one in every three bites of food we consume.

"How each city or campus completes the steps to conserve pollinators is up to them," said Laura Rost, Bee Campus USA coordinator. "Affiliates play to their own strengths, designing pesticide reduction plans, improving habitat, and holding events ranging from garden

tours to native plant giveaways to bee trivia nights.

"Each campus must renew their affiliation each year and report on accomplishments from the previous year. Other institutions of higher education are invited to explore completing the application process outlined at beecityusa.org."

"UT Martin serves a key

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Dr. Patrick R. Baker, J.D., associate professor of law, recently presented at Florida A&M University College of Law Orlando, Florida Legal Research and Writing 2022 Retreat Part One: Hearing from the Experts: Understanding the Undergraduates: What Legal Studies and Business Law Professors Can Tell Us.



Dr. Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, provided a presentation “State Government Promotion of Clay Mining in West Tennessee” at the 2022 annual conference of the Mining History Association in Birmingham, Alabama. Nordberg is a past president of the association and also served as program committee chair for the meeting.



Dr. Derrick Shepard, assistant professor of counseling, recently published a peer-reviewed article titled “Expanding the Role of Social Class in Multicultural Counselor Education Curricula” in the Journal of Counselor Preparation and Supervision. The article can be accessed [here](#).

In Memory

Charles Walker, long-time English adjunct instructor, died Saturday, July 2, in Murray, Kentucky. Charles worked as an adjunct instructor for the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages for approximately 20 years and last worked at the university in fall 2014. A 1970 education graduate, he also performed in many UTM, Market House (Paducah), and Purchase Players (Mayfield) theater productions. A memorial service is being planned for August. The family requests donations to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in lieu of flowers. The complete obituary is found [here](#).

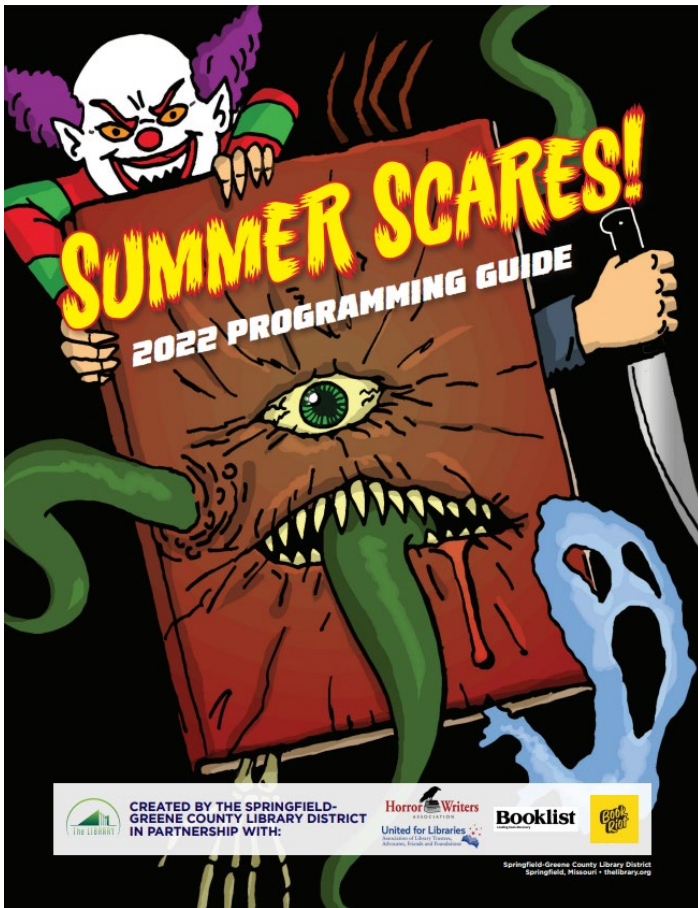


Wanda Brundige, who retired in 2015 following a 45-year career at UT Martin, died Wednesday, June 29, in Jackson. Wanda was the administrative services assistant for the UT Martin Jackson Center at the time of her retirement. The complete obituary is found [here](#).



WEST RECEIVES PRESIDENT’S AWARD – Cindy West, dean of the UT Martin College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences, received [one of seven President’s Awards](#) presented to faculty and staff throughout the UT System. The awards were presented following the UT Board of Trustees annual meeting June 24 in Knoxville. West is pictured with University of Tennessee System President Randy Boyd.

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SUMMER SCARES – The Paul Meek Library hopes to scare you into the library during the month of July. There's absolutely nothing to be afraid of – it's just the library's monthly book display highlighting the Summer Scares reading initiative by the Horror Writers Association, Book Riot, Booklist and United for Libraries. Try the horror genre on for size with these curated, diverse titles for adult, young adult (teen) and middle-grade readers. Each featured title includes a carefully crafted reading group guide, which introduces readers and librarians to new authors and helps start conversations extending beyond the books from each list and promotes reading for years to come.



PRESENTING THE MASTER PLAN – Chancellor Keith Carver presents the UT Martin Campus Master Plan to the Finance and Administration Committee of the UT Board of Trustees on June 23 prior to the full board meeting June 24. The plan received full board approval. The annual meeting was held in the Student Union Ballroom on the UT Knoxville campus.



STRONGMAN SKYHAWKS – Dr. Joshua Guerin, professor of computer science, and Ethan Wilson, a UT Martin agriculture student, competed in the novice men's heavyweight division at the Body-By-Boyd's B3ToughOne Strongman 2022 contest on June 4 in Carlyle, Illinois. The two participated in events like an alternating keg and log press, deadlift medley, sandbag over bar, farmer's carry and pushing an 8,000 military-grade Humvee. Guerin earned 5th place in the division with 21 points and earned second place in the deadlift event with 17 lifts in 60 seconds. Guerin and Wilson prepared for the event by training at the Student Recreation Center every weekend.



NILE UNIVERSITY VISIT – Five UT Martin faculty and staff visited Nile University May 27 – June 3 to strengthen and expand the new collaborative relationship that was announced in fall 2021 between the two universities. The arrangement will allow Nile University students to earn a dual MBA-EMBA from UT Martin's College of Business and Global Affairs and the Nile University School of Business Administration. In this May 29 photo, Dr. Mahmoud Haddad (top facing row, right) addresses a meeting of representatives from both universities that includes Dr. Phil Cavalier (right, head of the table). Haddad is a UT Martin professor of finance, and Cavalier is the university's provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs. Others visible in the photo from UT Martin are (top facing row, third from left) Stephanie Butler, coordinator of international student services; (fourth from left) Jennifer Killebrew, MBA program and student success coordinator; and (third from right) Erica Bell, director of UT Martin Regional Centers and Online Programs.

Read more UT Martin news online at utm.edu/news.



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agricultural region and protecting our bee population is necessary for our farms and communities,” said **Dr. Keith Carver**, UT Martin chancellor. “The flexibility to build a program that works best for the university is a strength of the Bee Campus USA affiliation that will allow us to be successful partners in this important work.”

According to **Dr. Eric Pelren**, UT Martin professor of wildlife biology, the university has planted trees, shrubs and flowers that are beneficial to pollinators as well as occasional delayed mowing to attract more pollinators. The university is committed to minimizing hazards to pollinators by using nearly no neonicotinoids or other potentially dangerous pesticides.

To raise awareness about the plight of pollinators, the university plans to publish a webpage to disseminate information to the campus and external communities, including UT Martin’s

Integrated Pest Management Plan, a list of native plants incorporated into the campus landscape along with their bloom time and habitat needs, links to student and faculty research into pollinator issues, and information about upcoming events.

Pelren, also the university’s Center for Sustainability coordinator, sees opportunities for student research and service-learning. Already faculty, staff and students have worked together to study and create pollinator habitat with native plants. Multiple courses include pollinators in their syllabi, and removing invasive species is an important student activity. Among related future activities for student groups, the university plans to hold “Weed Wrangle” activities during Earth Week in April.

For more information about UT Martin’s Bee Campus USA program, contact Pelren at epelren@utm.edu or 731-881-7263. For more information about Bee Campus USA, visit beecityusa.org.



HONORARY GRADUATE – UT System President Randy Boyd (center) was welcomed as the WestStar Leadership Program’s fourth honorary graduate June 21 during WestStar’s annual graduation event at The Venue at Twin Oaks in Humboldt. Boyd also served at the event’s keynote speaker. Thirty graduates in the 2022 class bring the total to 916 WestStar alumni since the program was established in 1989. Presenting his WestStar plaque are Dr. Keith Carver (l), UT Martin chancellor, and Dr. Charley Deal, secretary of the board for WestStar and UT Martin vice chancellor for university advancement.

Let the UT Martin community know about your most recent accolades by submitting a YoUTM.

Email us at addenda@utm.edu.

History faculty member honored for Civil War scholarship

The Houston (Texas) Civil War Round Table presented a UT Martin faculty member an award for his American Civil War scholarship. **Dr. Timothy B. Smith**, history lecturer in the Department of History and Philosophy, was presented the Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit in May. The award honors Smith’s contributions to the historiography of the Civil War and his service as an author, National Park Service ranger, tour guide, speaker and preservationist during a career spanning more than 20 years.

The Vandiver Award was first presented in 1982 and recognizes contributions to Civil



Dr. Timothy B. Smith

War scholarship or preservation efforts by an individual or an institution. Smith addressed the Houston Civil War Round Table in March and is the

award’s 40th recipient.

“The HCWRT was extraordinarily fortunate to have a historian with the acclaimed stature of Dr. Smith as the recipient of our award,” said round table President Gene Boisaubin in a news release announcing the honor. “His presentation epitomized those same scholarship attributes as well as being quite entertaining.”

The Mississippi native began teaching at UT Martin in 2007. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in history from the University of Mississippi and a doctoral degree from Mississippi State University. In addition to many articles and essays,

Smith is the author, editor, or co-editor of approximately 20 books. His latest work, “Early Struggles for Vicksburg: The Mississippi Central Campaign and Chickasaw Bayou, October 25-December 31, 1862” was released this year.

Smith was also featured in a 2020 three-night miniseries on The History Channel titled “Grant” where he appeared as an expert historian on Civil War general and 18th president of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant. In the series, Smith focused predominantly on Grant’s strategy and success

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FUTURE STEM TEACHERS – Three UT Martin Noyce Scholars signed a contract agreeing to fulfill the program’s requirements as they begin their Master of Science in Initial Licensure at UT Martin. Pictured (l, r) is Petra McPherson, senior vice chancellor for finance and administration; Grace Looney, of Millington; Taylor Dennis, of Jackson; Terae Phelps, of Union City; and Dr. Steve Elliott, professor of mathematics and statistics and UT Martin STEM Center director.

Three UT Martin Noyce Scholars begin master’s degrees

Three UT Martin Noyce Scholars signed a contract agreeing to fulfill the program’s requirements as they begin their Master of Science in Initial Licensure at UT Martin. Terae Phelps, of Union City; Grace Looney, of Millington; and Taylor Dennis, of Jackson, signed the contract during an orientation for the graduate program on May 10.

The UT Martin Noyce Scholars receive a \$29,000 stipend to cover full tuition and fees for their master’s degrees at UT Martin. To maintain that stipend, the students must agree to complete the program in one calendar year, apply for a Tennessee educator license, and teach for at least two years in a high-need school district. Funding is provided through the National Science Foundation’s Robert Noyce

Teacher Scholarship Program to increase the number of qualified science and math teachers in West Tennessee.

“The UTM Noyce Scholars Program is our regional contribution to the National Science Foundation’s effort to address the shortage of math and science teachers in Tennessee and across the United States,” said **Dr. Steve Elliott**, professor of mathematics and statistics and UT Martin STEM Center director. “Over five years, we are trying to obtain, train and retain 25 math and science teachers for Tennessee students.”

Applications will open in September 2022 for the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, and additional information is available at www.utm.edu/noyce or by visiting the UTM Noyce Scholars account on Instagram.

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at the Battle of Shiloh. While the battle only lasted two days, it was the bloodiest and most costly battle to date in the Civil War.

“My major area of research is the Civil War in the Mississippi Valley, which includes Grant’s early war activity, so I’ve studied Grant thoroughly at Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh and on down to Vicksburg,” Smith said in 2020. “Plus, I’m co-editor, with John F. Marszalek at Mississippi State University’s Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, of a book series with Southern Illinois University Press entitled ‘The World of Ulysses S. Grant.’ So, I’ve been studying and working on Grant a while now.” His work with The History

Channel continued earlier this year when Smith appeared in the “Abraham Lincoln” documentary that aired in February.

Smith teaches for the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer, to the university’s other regional centers through distance learning, and he also teaches for UT Martin Online. “We had one student postpone his graduation due to his desire to take one of Dr. Smith’s classes the following semester,” said Alan Youngerman, Selmer Center director. “We are proud of Dr. Smith and his receipt of this award. UT Martin and the Selmer Center are lucky to have a history professor of his caliber and reputation.”



GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL BURIES TIME CAPSULE – The UT Martin Governor’s School for the Humanities 2022 class buried a time capsule June 28 in front of the Boling University Center. The time capsule was the first for the program since the Governor’s School for the Humanities began in 1986 at the university. The time capsule contains artifacts from each of the 53 students and the faculty members involved with the program. Pictured (l, r) holding shovels are Steve Vantrease, manager of the Ned Ray McWherter Institute and assistant director of the Governor’s School for the Humanities; Dr. Jerald Ogg, professor of mass media and strategic communication and director of the Governor’s School for the Humanities; Bebe Falkner, a participant in the Governor’s School for the Humanities from Murfreesboro; Sarah Nipper, a participant in the Governor’s School for the Humanities from Johnson City; Dave Chambliss, UT Martin Physical Plant and 2006 GSH alumnus; and UT Martin Chancellor Keith Carver. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Robert Nanney, professor and chair, UT Martin Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication.)

**View more UT Martin photos
online at utm.edu/photo.**





UT MARTIN FACULTY RECOGNIZED AT HONORS DAY MAY 1 – Six UT Martin faculty members received awards at Honors Day on May 1. UT Martin faculty members receiving awards were Dr. Julie Floyd, professor of nursing, who received the Coffey Outstanding Teaching Award; Dr. Christie Chen, associate professor of management, who received the Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award; Jason Stout, professor of art, who received the Cunningham Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award; Dr. Carrie Humphreys, assistant professor of political science and international studies, who received the Outstanding Academic Adviser Award; Dr. Dexter Davis, associate professor of sports management, who received the Outstanding University of Tennessee Alumni Association Teacher Award; and Dr. Joshua Guerin, professor of computer science, who received the Outstanding University of Tennessee Alumni Association Teacher Award. Pictured (back row, l, r) are Dr. Patrick Baker, associate professor of law and award presenter; Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs; Guerin; Humphreys; (middle row) Stout, Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs; Scott Williams, president and CEO, Discovery Park of America and keynote speaker; Davis; (front row) Chen; Floyd; Chancellor Keith Carver; and Sidney Church, immediate past president of the Student Government Association and May 2022 graduate.

Smith leads team to 20 medals

Dr. Clinton Smith, associate professor of special education at UT Martin and area director for Upper West Tennessee – Area 7 Special Olympics, accompanied eight Tennessee athletes to the Special Olympics USA Games, June 5-12, in Orlando. This year's event was one of the largest events in history; more than 5,500 Special Olympics athletes and coaches participated.

The athletes Smith directly coached in track-and-field events earned a total of 20 medals, including four gold medals, three silver medals and two bronze medals. Garrett Dinning, a rising junior at Westview High School in Martin and son of UT Martin graduate Jill Dinning, earned fourth place in the mini javelin event and the 4 x 100-meter relay as well as sixth place in the long jump event.

For more information about Upper West Tennessee Special Olympics or the UT Martin special education program, visit www.area7sotn.com or contact Smith at csmit279@utm.edu.

You Tell Me

- **Question** – How many of the new UT Martin specialty license plate designs have been sold?
- **Answer** – As of July 29, 2021, 69 redesigned UT Martin plates were registered. Compared to 151 plates that were registered as of June 15, 2022. A total of 191 of the original UT Martin license plate design remain registered. The plates featuring the new design were first available Feb. 3, 2021, in Weakley County. The specialty plate costs an additional \$36 to renew annually.

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

addenda

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