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The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | July 25, 2022

24th-Annual Mid-South Ag Finance Conference set for Aug. 10

The 24th-Annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference will be held from 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 10, in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium. The conference, themed "Getting Comfortable with the Uncomfortable," discusses strategies for taking advantage of opportunities during uncertain economic environments. The conference is hosted by the university's Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Registration is open through Aug. 5. The registration fee is \$200 for lenders; \$100 for farmers, producers, and UT employees; and \$50 for students and spouses. Register online at www.utm.edu/agconference.

Featured speakers include Dr. David Kohl, professor emeritus of agricultural finance and small business management and entrepreneurship at Virginia Tech University; Eric Snodgrass, principal atmospheric scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions; and Richard Brock, owner and president of Brock associates. Kohl will serve as keynote speaker, a role he has held every

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(l, r) Edie Gibson, senior adviser to the chancellor; Dr. Mark McCloud, chief diversity and inclusion officer; and Dr. Nancy Buschhaus, interim dean for the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences, have completed the University of Tennessee Executive Leadership Institute program.

Three UT Martin administrators complete Executive Leadership Institute

Three UT Martin administrators have completed the University of Tennessee Executive Leadership Institute program. **Dr. Nancy Buschhaus**, of Palmersville, interim dean for the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; **Edie Gibson**, of Martin, senior adviser to the chancellor; and **Dr. Mark McCloud**, of Martin, chief diversity and inclusion officer, were among 23 participants in the institute's 2022 class. This year's cohort is the third in the program's history.

Buschhaus has taught in the Department of Biological

Sciences for 25 years and was serving as department chair before being named interim dean in June. She previously served as undergraduate council chair for the UT Martin Faculty Senate and has participated in committee work associated with enrollment and faculty evaluation.

In addition to her role as senior advisor to the chancellor, Gibson serves as secretary to the UT Martin Advisory Board and is institutional compliance chair for the campus. During her 32-year UT Martin career, Gibson has overseen institutional research

and served as senior woman administrator for intercollegiate athletics.

McCloud was appointed chief diversity and inclusion officer in spring 2021 and previously served as the director for the Office of Career Planning and Development. McCloud also serves as the director of diversity and inclusion for the Southern Association for College and Employers and received the organization's 2020 Mosaic Award for his dedication to diversity and inclusion initiatives.

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YoUTMs

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After serving a year as president-elect, **Dr. Todd Winters**, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, became president of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) at the group's national conference in June.



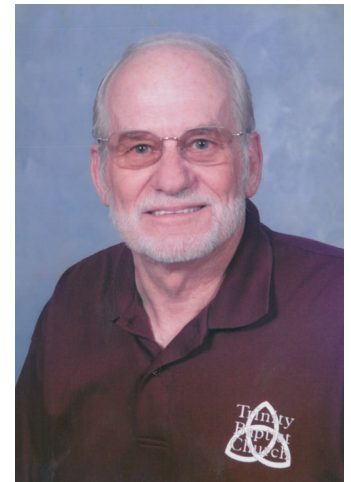
Dr. Tommy Cates, Tom E. Hendrix COE in Free Enterprise, provided two presentations "Recipe For An Entrepreneur?" and "Super-size SWOT Analysis That Develops a Strategy for a Business" at the 2022 Institute for CTE Educators in Chattanooga on July 20.



Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance, provided information for WalletHub.com's "Best Credit Cards With No Annual Fee" feature, where he answered questions about credit card annual fees. WalletHub is a personal finance website; the article can be read [here](#).

In Memory

Paul Anderson, assistant professor emeritus of journalism, died July 9 in Danville, Kentucky. He came to the Department of Communications on Sept. 1, 1986, and he retired from UT Martin at the end of the 1995-96 academic year. You can read more about his life at this [link](#). Visitation was July 13 at Stith Funeral home in Danville, and graveside services were July 14 at Camp Nelson National Cemetery.



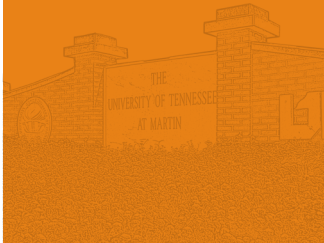
Dr. Adnan Rasool, assistant professor of political science, recently had his article titled "The case for smart diplomacy: Evidence from Taiwan's New Southbound Policy" published in the journal Asian Politics and Policy. The article was coauthored with Casey Ruggiero, a senior



international studies major. Rasool also had a second article titled "Tuning into Student Learning: The Music of IR Theories" published in the Journal of Political Science Education. This article was coauthored with **Dr. Carrie Humphreys**, also assistant professor.

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year since the conference's inception in 1999. A panel at the conclusion of the conference will address questions about global economics, trade, agricultural markets, weather and climate change and their effects on business.

For more information, contact **Traci Crawford**, Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference program coordinator, at tcrawf19@utm.edu or 731-881-7350.



ENTERS TENNESSEE SPORTS HALL OF FAME – Bettye Giles, pictured with Chancellor Keith Carver, was officially welcomed July 23 into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in Nashville. The induction event was held at the Omni Nashville Downtown Hotel and follows the 2020 announcement of her hall of fame membership. The induction event was delayed two years because of the pandemic, so the July 23 event included recognition of the 2020 and 2021 classes and the announcement of the 2022 class. Giles served as director of UT Martin women's athletics from 1969 until her retirement in 1994. Her leadership and activism coincided with the Title IX education amendments of 1972, which require federally funded educational institutions to provide fair and equal treatment in all areas of educational programming, including sports. Honored in the 2021 class was UT Martin graduate Brandon Rowland, of Jackson, a double amputee and accomplished athlete who led the Jackson Generals wheelchair basketball team to two National Wheelchair Basketball Association titles in the early 2000s. Art Sparks, also an alum and UT Martin Advisory Board chair, is a member of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame board of directors.



BLUE OVAL CITY TEAM MEETS – The Blue Oval City Response Team held its initial meeting Friday, July 22, in the Dunagan Alumni Center. The team was created to coordinate preparations for and responses to Ford information releases and requests for assistance. The team's goal is to connect UT Martin students, faculty, staff and programs with bold and innovative partnerships with the Megasite of West Tennessee. Ford Motor Company's first new manufacturing plant since the 1960s will change West Tennessee. But until the first all-electric F-Series trucks are manufactured in 2025, much work is ahead to prepare for Blue Oval City, the \$5.6 billion development announced in September 2021 by Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee. Ford and SK Innovation will build a 3,600-acre campus for the project that will create thousands of new jobs in the region. Blue Oval City Response Team members are Chancellor Keith Carver; Petra McPhearson, Division of Finance and Administration; Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, Division of Academic Affairs; Alisha Melton, Office of Research, Outreach and Economic Development; Destin Tucker, Office of Undergraduate Admissions; Dr. Erik Nordberg, Paul Meek Library; Dr. Nancy Buschhaus, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; Dr. Sean Walker, College of Business and Global Affairs; Dr. Todd Winters, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; Cindy West, College of Health, Education, and Behavioral Sciences; Dr. Lynn Alexander, College of Humanities and Fine Arts; Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Office of Graduate Studies; Dr. Adam Wilson, UT Martin Online; Landy Fuqua, REED Center; Bud Grimes, Office of University Relations; and Laura Suiter, Division of University Advancement.

ELI GRADS from PAGE 1

The institute is part of UT System President Emeritus Joe DiPietro's legacy and was established to prepare internal candidates for future leadership positions and complement current succession-planning efforts within the UT System.

The institute is led by **Dr. Bob Smith**, senior associate for leadership and talent development to the UT president and UT Martin chancellor emeritus. The institute offers participants coaching and mentorship as well as experiential learning opportunities and access to online leadership courses to use toward creation of individualized development plans. This year's class met six times throughout the year for multi-day sessions.

The 23 members of the 2022 class represented each UT

campus and institute and oversee critical functions within the UT System. Participants must be nominated by a university president, a campus chancellor, an institute's vice president, the UT Foundation president or a UT System vice president.

Other 2022 institute class members were:

- Evan Beech, UT Foundation Inc., director of specialized giving;
- Doug Bohner, UT Institute of Agriculture, human resource officer;
- Brian Daniels, UT System administration, chief audit and compliance officer;
- Ellie Dougherty, UT System administration, director of marketing;
- Vicki Farnsworth, UT Chattanooga, chief information officer;
- Dr. Teresa Hartnett,

UT Health Science Center, associate dean for finance and administration in the College of Medicine;

- Adam Heller, UT Foundation, Inc., chief financial officer and treasurer;
- Pam Jeffreys, UT System administration, risk management director;
- Dr. Mark La Branche, special assistant to UT System President Randy Boyd;
- Dr. Mónica Lebrón, UT Knoxville, deputy athletics director for championship resources;
- Stacy Lightfoot, UT Chattanooga, vice chancellor for diversity and engagement;
- Dr. Paul Leuepke, UT Health Science Center, Department of Periodontology chair;
- Holly Mercer, UT Knoxville, senior associate dean;

- Dr. Jorge Pérez, UT System administration, associate vice president for institutional effectiveness;

- Craig Pickett, UT Institute of Agriculture, director for diversity;
- Susan Robertson, Institute for Public Service, communications manager;
- Robby Shelton, UT Southern, vice chancellor for finance and administration;
- Timothy Sigler, UT System administration, assistant vice president for government relations and advocacy;
- David Steele, UT Chattanooga, chief of staff;
- Dr. David White, UT Institute of Agriculture, associate dean for research.

For more information about the institute, visit president.tennessee.edu/executive-leadership-institute/.



PML OPEN HOUSE – As a kick-off to Student Appreciation week, the Paul Meek Library will hold its annual open house from 3-5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 12. This year’s theme will be “Colors of the World” and the event will include a mini organization fair. Individuals, departments and student organizations interested in reserving a table should contact Patricia Sanders at psander9@utm.edu.



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS’ AWARD – The UT Martin Department of Agriculture, Geosciences, and Natural Resources received the Tennessee Association of Agricultural Educators’ award for the Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program at the organization’s annual conference July 10-12 in Murfreesboro. This is the third time that UT Martin has received the award. The award recognizes a post-secondary institution or program in which staff and faculty members devote at least 50% of their teaching time to providing exemplary agricultural education training. Recipients are chosen by a committee of agriculture teachers from across the state based on each program’s curriculum, experiential learning and leadership-development opportunities, professional growth of faculty members, and program marketing.

24TH-ANNUAL MID-SOUTH AGRICULTURAL FINANCE CONFERENCE

Wednesday, Aug. 10
8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Watkins Auditorium

click this ad to register

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

You Tell Me

- **Question** – Is hitting golf balls permitted on campus where Skyhawk teams practice and play outdoors? Are faculty, staff and students ever allowed to use the Rhodes Golf Center to hit golf balls or putt? If all of these spaces are not approved for this activity, is there an approved space on campus for hitting golf balls?
- **Answer** – Hitting golf balls on the main campus is limited to the Rhodes Golf Center and no other athletics facility. At times athletics will have open use or camps for people interested in practicing golf at the on-campus range, but all is structured through Austin Swafford, Skyhawk head golf coach. For those seeking the health and psychological benefits of hitting a bucket of golf balls, the privately-owned Brooks Driving Range located at 391 Fowler Road serves as the “field of golf-practice dreams” in Martin. Load up your clubs, and don’t forget to bring your quarters for the ball-dispensing machine. (Information provided by intercollegiate athletics, campus recreation and Brooks Driving Range.)

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