

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Aug. 8, 2022



An anonymous gift to UT Martin will support the university's new Bachelor of Science in Construction Management, an engineering major developed to meet Tennessee workforce needs. The new degree program has received full approval from the UT Board of Trustees and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and will begin this fall. The program will be taught in the university's new Latimer Engineering and Science Building (pictured), which will be completed this fall.

## ANONYMOUS GIFT SUPPORTS NEWLY APPROVED CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

An anonymous gift to UT Martin will support the university's new Bachelor of Science in Construction Management, an engineering major developed to meet Tennessee workforce needs.

The gift of the Overcast Family Professorship for Excellence in Construction Management Endowment will enable the university to hire future faculty members for the new program. In addition, the same donors will provide scholarships to qualified students at the second-year level or above who have a

cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher through their establishment of the Overcast Family Construction Management Scholarship Fund.

The new degree received UT Board of Trustees approval during the board's annual meeting in June and received final approval July 28 during the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's summer meeting in Nashville. The program will begin fall semester 2022.

The degree will provide an additional STEM pathway to students interested in the

combination of engineering and construction-related work. The degree will be formatted to benefit completion by both traditional students and by professionals currently working in the construction field. Construction management is a vital and sought-after component of the construction industry that provides a professional service using specialized project-management techniques to oversee project planning, design and execution.

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## Small businesses to benefit from MBA program, REED Center consulting project

The Master of Business Administration program at UT Martin is partnering with the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center, Tennessee Small Business Development Center and the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking to provide professional consulting to local businesses in West Tennessee. Through the MBA Consulting Project, small businesses will receive consulting assistance from a group of MBA students working on their capstone projects.

The objective of the MBA Consulting Project is to provide students with an opportunity to work with businesses as outside consultants. The student teams will meet with business owners to determine best strategies and practices for their organizations. The teams will plan, execute and adjust the project accordingly. The projects may include the following: SWOT analysis, strategic plan development, feasibility studies, business plan development, sales and marketing plans, and market research.

All West Tennessee businesses are eligible to apply for the MBA Consulting Project. For more information or to receive an application, contact Landy Fuqua at reed@utm.edu or by calling 731-587-7333.

# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



**Dr. Erik Nordberg**, dean of the Paul Meek Library, provided a presentation “Personality over Policy: Collecting Records of American Business, Industry and Technology” at the 2022 International Conference on the History of Records and Archives (ICHORA). The virtual conference was hosted by the National Archives of the United Kingdom.



**Erica Bell**, director of Regional Centers and Online Programs, was recently elected to serve a second term as President of the National Association of Branch Campus Administrators. The international association is committed to supporting the leadership, teaching, and research for branch and regional administrators in higher education.



**Dr. Saman Sargolzei**, assistant professor of engineering, recently presented research on neuroscience and autonomous vehicles at the 2022 joint meeting of Neuroergonomics and NYC Neuromodulation Conferences, held July 28-Aug. 1 at the City College of New York. The ORSP Faculty Development Teaching Grant Program and CENS UGR Grant partially funded the research and conference participation.



**Dr. Bob Peckham**, professor emeritus of French, addressed by invitation the Advocacy Commission session at the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of French in New Orleans on July 12. The title of his remarks concerning data that has a role in shutting language programs down was “Your Number is Up.” He works with several organizations conducting educational surveys.



**ATTEND NO-TILL FIELD DAY – UT Martin** was well represented at the 32nd VIP Breakfast that preceded the Milan No-Till Crop Production Field Day on July 28 at the UT AgResearch and Education Center at Milan. (above) **Dr. Charley Deal** (middle back row) and **Virginia Grimes** (right) join **Dr. Blake Brown** and a group of WestStar Leadership Program alumni at the event. Brown (pictured to the left of Grimes) is Milan research center director and a 2009 WestStar graduate; (top right) **Chancellor Keith Carver** is pictured with **Jeff Aiken**, deputy to Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner **Charlie Hatcher** and former Tennessee Farm Bureau president; and (bottom right) (l, r) **Drs. Todd Winters, Philip Smartt, Joey Mehlhorn** and **Andy Lewter** gather before breakfast.



**CONSTRUCTION from PAGE 1**

The Bachelor of Science in Construction Management degree is the third degree offered at the Martin campus by the Department of Engineering, which currently offers a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering with concentrations in civil, computer, electrical, manufacturing and mechatronics. The program curriculum will be accredited by the American Council for Construction Education and taught in the new Latimer Engineering and Science Building.

Also approved by the commission was the 2022 UT Martin Master Plan, which was approved in June by the UT Board of Trustees. This comprehensive 10-year plan serves as a blueprint for building expansions and site improvements that preserve and renew existing facilities and reinforce the positive aspects of the main campus.



The latest issue of Our Tennessee is out and it contains a feature story about a UT Martin chemistry graduate who is finding ways to reduce the severity of food allergies. Physical copies are mailed to all departments on campus, and you can see the stories online at [our.tennessee.edu](http://our.tennessee.edu).

## Brigance receives WestStar, Security Bank & Trust scholarships



**Carson Brigance, a UT Martin finance major, has received two scholarships as he continues his education at UT Martin. Carson (left) is pictured with his father, Jason (center), and his grandfather, Jerry, all of Martin. Both Jason and Jerry are WestStar graduates.**

Carson Brigance, a UT Martin finance major, has received two scholarships as he continues his education at UTM. Brigance recently received the Nick Dunagan WestStar Leadership Scholarship from UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program. He has also received the Leaders in Banking Scholarship provided by Security Bank & Trust. Brigance lives in Martin and is in his third year at the university.

The WestStar Leadership Program scholarship was established in 2004 by WestStar alumni to honor Dunagan, co-founder of the leadership program

and UT Martin chancellor emeritus. The scholarship benefits a UT Martin student who demonstrates proven leadership skills and displays leadership potential. Preference is given based on high academic achievement and a record of community or university involvement. Brigance's father, Jason, is a 2011 WestStar graduate, and his grandfather, Jerry, graduated from WestStar in 1997.

The Leaders in Banking Scholarship is awarded to two students annually beginning their third year at the university. In addition to receiving the scholarship, the students complete an internship or work

experience with Security Bank & Trust. The scholarship and related internship program are coordinated through UT Martin's Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking. Horace and Sara Dunagan were the parents of Nick Dunagan.

For more information about WestStar, contact **Virginia Grimes**, assistant director, at [vgrimes@utm.edu](mailto:vgrimes@utm.edu) or 731-881-7787. Information about the Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking is available by contacting **John Clark**, interim director, and **Traci Crawford**, program resource specialist, at 731-881-7350; email [jclar138@utm.edu](mailto:jclar138@utm.edu) or [tcrawf19@utm.edu](mailto:tcrawf19@utm.edu).

**Read more UT Martin news online at [utm.edu/news](http://utm.edu/news).**



**VISIT UT MARTIN** – Family members of the late Dr. Larry and Betsy McGehee visited Martin on Friday, July 22, and were joined for the campus visit by Chancellor Emeritus Nick and Cathy Dunagan. Dr. McGehee served as UT Martin chancellor from 1971-79. The Dunagan Alumni Center was a special stop, which was once the Chancellor's Residence and "home" to Molly and Liz for eight years. Pictured in the quad at the site of the old sassafras tree (l, r) are Molly and Liz McGehee and Benjamin and Daniel Parson; Benjamin is the son of Molly and Daniel.



**OUTSTANDING SERVICE** – In May 2022, The Division of Student Affairs awarded the Phillip Watkins Outstanding Service to Student Affairs Award to three staff members. Recipients included (l-r) Debi Adcock, administrative assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Monica Black, administrative assistant for Student Life and Multicultural Affairs; and Laura Kepler, hall director, Cooper Hall. The group is pictured with Dr. Andy Lewter, vice chancellor for student affairs. This award is given annually to Student Affairs staff who have gone above and beyond in their service to the division and UTM students.



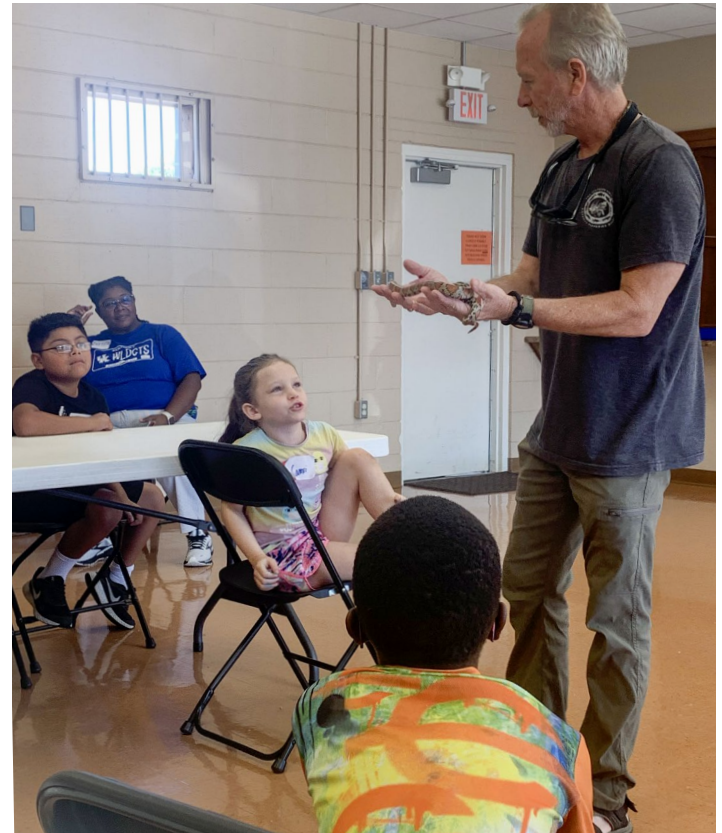
**TALKING STUDENT RETENTION** – Dr. Brad Baumgardner, the university's new director of retention, was the guest speaker for the Town & Gown Association breakfast held Aug. 4 at the Dunagan Alumni Center. The program also included city and university updates from Mayor Randy Brundige and Chancellor Keith Carver, respectively. "My job is to think about retention every day," Baumgardner told attendees, and he outlined some key drivers that help students persist to graduation. Some of those drivers include encouraging high school students to enroll in UT Martin dual enrollment courses; supporting the Office of Career Planning and Development and its programming; and community businesses and organizations offering students strong mentorship and job-shadowing opportunities. As for this fall, the Office of Enrollment Services and Student Engagement has conducted extensive summer outreach to students identified via new data tools. Of the eligible students who were enrolled for spring 2022 and had not yet returned for fall 2022, the Student Success Center has assisted 194 students in registering for fall classes. This represents 4% of the overall degree-seeking undergraduate headcount from fall 2021.



**FLIGHT OF PASSAGE** – The UT Martin Somerville Center hosted its first-ever Freshman Flight of Passage program during the first week of August. Flight of Passage information and activities helped entering freshmen understand the importance of high school. Topics included career exploration, conflict resolution, ACT prep, and the importance of maintaining a strong GPA. Participants also took the ACT residual. The goal is to make this an annual event. Program organizers and participants pictured with the students at the Somerville Center are (back row, l-r) Terrance Lurry; Katie Mantooth, UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development; Dr. Kiffany Williams, Fayette Ware High School assistant principal; Jason Newman, Fayette Ware High School principal; Dr. Versie Hamlet, superintendent, Fayette County Public Schools; Skip Taylor, Fayette County mayor; and Kara Tapp, Somerville Center director. Pictured on the front row (l, r) are Alex Beene, assistant coordinator, state of Tennessee; Sarah Schwalb, English teacher and director of development, Rossville Christian Academy; and retired state Sen. Dolores Gresham.



**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](mailto:psander9@utm.edu).



**SNAKE WHISPERER** – Dr. Tom Blanchard, professor of biology, was a guest presenter at the Hickman Summer Day Camp held Aug. 2-4 at the Housing Authority of Hickman. Blanchard spoke about the biology of snakes and why they are important to ecosystems. He also taught about each of the species he brought, which included Prairie Kingsnake, Black Kingsnake, Milksnake, Gray Ratsnake, Cornsnake and Pine Snake. After his presentation, Blanchard gave everyone a chance to hold a snake.

**24TH-ANNUAL MID-SOUTH  
AGRICULTURAL FINANCE CONFERENCE**

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

## 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 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 based on this data, but the magazine is also offered digitally for those who wish to access the magazine online. The magazine is published twice per year.

*Submit your questions anonymously to the Suggestion Box link at [www.utm.edu/suggestionbox](http://www.utm.edu/suggestionbox).*

## addenda

Published weekly during the academic year and biweekly during the summer by UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238  
Randy Boyd – President, University of Tennessee System • Dr. Keith Carver Jr. – Chancellor • Nathan Morgan – Addenda Editor  
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