

addenda

The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Sept. 26, 2022

SPECIAL GUEST TO SPEAK AS PART OF ENGAGE THE TIMES SERIES

UT Martin will host Dr. Martin Nekola as a part of the “ENGAGE the Times” series. This series includes 10 meetings each semester for students, staff and faculty to meet and engage in meaningful conversations about current events.

Nekola will have lunch with students and faculty from 11:30 am to 1:30 p.m., Oct. 13, in the Skyhawk Dining Hall, where he will speak on the topic, “The Czech Republic, European Union, Rise of Populism and the War in Ukraine.” From



Dr. Martin Nekola

5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Paul Meek Library, Nekola will give a presentation on, “The War in Ukraine- The Lessons for Europe.” Both presentations are

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GROOVY DAYS

UT Martin’s 2022 homecoming festivities are underway and will continue through Oct. 2 on the main campus. Among this year’s events, the annual Quad City tent festival will begin at 10:30 a.m., Oct. 1, followed by the 2 p.m. homecoming football game against Tennessee Tech at Hardy Graham Stadium. UT Martin is stepping back into the 70s with a theme of “Groovy Days at UTM” for the event-filled week. (above) UT Martin fraternities compete in day one of Rope Pull.

Fall enrollment increase and Strategic Plan ‘refresh’ highlight Advisory Board meeting

A fall enrollment report and review of the University of Tennessee at Martin’s updated strategic plan were among the agenda items presented during Friday’s fall meeting of the UT Martin Advisory Board. Updates on the university’s Title IX work and capital projects were also presented to board members

during the 1 p.m. meeting held Sept. 23 in the Boling University Center.

Advisory boards were created for each University of Tennessee campus under the UT FOCUS Act passed during Gov. Bill Haslam’s administration. Board members are appointed by the governor, confirmed by the

Tennessee general assembly, and advise the chancellors, UT president and UT Board of Trustees on matters related to the university campuses.

Dr. Philip Acree Cavalier, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, reported

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YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



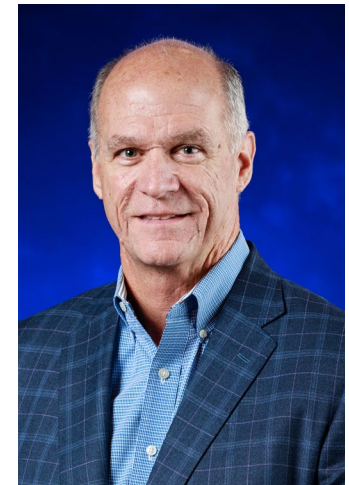
Dr. Kelle Alden, assistant professor of English and director of the Hortense Parrish Writing Center, recently had an article titled “A Practical Guide to Making a Writing Center Space More Physically Accessible,” published in Another Word, a writing center blog from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. You can read her article [here](#).



Cassie Burks, lecturer of Nursing, recently had an article titled “Burnout: Lessons from Mary Breckinridge” published under the Nurses’ Well-Being section of the Tennessee Nurse. The Tennessee Nurse is the official publication of the Tennessee Nurses Foundation.



Dr. Mahmoud Haddad, professor of finance, attended and conducted a workshop on cryptocurrency crimes at the 39th Cambridge International symposium on economic crime, Sept. 4-11, in Cambridge, England.



Dr. Brian Donavant, professor of criminal justice, recently accompanied two students, Skylar Sublette and Aimee Phillips, to the Southern Criminal Justice Association conference in Asheville, North Carolina. Sublette, a senior criminal justice student also taking graduate coursework, presented her original research, “The Blame Game: College Students’ Perceptions of Sexual Assault”; and Phillips, a criminal justice graduate student, presented her original research, “(In)justice in Juvenile Facilities.” Donavant’s research with Dr. Karla Pope, professor and chair of criminal justice at William Carey University, “Refocusing the Police Citizen Paradigm to a Civic Leader Model,” was also accepted for presentation at the conference.

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



tennessee.edu/values



GOOD FOOD

The latest issue of Our Tennessee, the UT System’s magazine for alumni, 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.



ADVISORY BOARD MEETS SEPT. 23 – The UT Martin Advisory Board held its annual fall meeting at 1 p.m., Friday, Sept. 23, in the Boling University Center. Pictured during the meeting are board members Dr. Anderson Starling, faculty representative to the board, and Iman Ahmed, student representative to the board.

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that UT Martin fall enrollment reached 6,868 students, which was the first fall-to-fall enrollment increase for the university since the pandemic began in 2020. Most of the increases compared to fall 2021 numbers came from first-time, first-year students, graduate students and transfers. New graduate student enrollment reached an all-time high of 268 students. Meanwhile the university's undergraduate retention rate also increased from 70 to 71%.

“That (retention rate increase) sounds like a small increase but that's real students and a lot of work,” Cavalier said of the retention number, crediting Dr. Brad Baumgardner, the university's new director of

retention, and the Office of Student Success Center staff for their work enrolling 268 eligible students for fall semester.

Cavalier also previewed the university's newly updated strategic plan that builds on the existing plan and aligns UT Martin with the UT System strategic plan through 2025 when all UT campuses will begin a new strategic-planning process. In the only board action for this meeting, board members unanimously approved the updated plan that moves next to the UT Board of Trustees for review and consideration for approval when the board meets Oct. 27-28 on the UT Martin main campus.

Dominique Crockett, director for the Office of Equity and Diversity, referenced the university's annual Title IX report

as she updated advisory board members on related progress and initiatives at the university. Title IX prohibits sex-based discrimination in any school or other educational program that receives federal government funding.

Crockett, who came to the university earlier this year from the UT Health Science Center in Memphis, reported a 100% completion rate for faculty and staff who received training that covered UT Martin's sexual misconduct policy. This was the highest completion rate in the UT System and, in addition to faculty and staff, approximately 1,200 students also completed the same training. She continues outreach efforts across the university to increase Title IX training and awareness.

Petra McPhearson, senior vice chancellor for finance and administration, followed with a capital-projects update and reported \$130 million in projects either recently completed or underway. Among the projects she highlighted were major system upgrades in Clement Hall, which was built in 1957 and where an open house earlier in the day welcomed visitors to see newly updated space that centralizes academic records, undergraduate admissions, the bursar's office, financial aid and other key student-services areas. She also noted a two-part project that added security upgrades, including installation of cameras around the main campus and door locks that allow classrooms to be locked from the inside.

McPhearson also previewed future projects that include an indoor batting facility for Skyhawk baseball, the Grove Apartments demolition, upgrades in the Johnson EPS Building and Elam Center lighting, and construction of the new Tennessee Entrepreneurial Science and Technology Hub. The TEST Hub was fully funded by the Tennessee General Assembly during the last legislative session.

Read the full Advisory Board story [here](#).

Archived meeting agendas, minutes and meeting webcasts, including the Sept. 23 meeting webcast, are found at www.utm.edu/advisoryboard. Select the “Agenda and Meeting Materials” menu link for archived content. The winter meeting of the board is set for Jan. 20, 2023. Call the UT Martin Office of University Relations at 731-881-7615 for additional assistance or information.

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





PRIDE YEAR – On August 25, the Center for Women and Gender Equality sponsored a Pride Year Kickoff Cookout. More than 250 students and dozens of faculty and staff attended the event eating hotdogs, picking up swag, playing cornhole, and dancing. The cookout marks the start of Pride Year, a celebration of inclusion and community. According to Center Director, Renee LaFleur, the Pride Year motto is "We are who we are. We matter. We belong." Other events for the celebratory year include a glow in the dark march and an inclusive prom.



WESTSTAR IN MEMPHIS – The WestStar Leadership Program held its annual mini-session in Memphis on Sept. 22, which brought together program alumni and guests for an informational day about Memphis and Shelby County. The program sessions were held at the YMCA of Memphis. The mini-sessions annually visit counties not formally visited during WestStar class sessions. Attending from UT Martin were (l, r) Petra McPhearson, Chancellor Keith Carver, Virginia Grimes, Jackie Johnson, Jennifer Black, Dr Charley Deal, Bud Grimes and Ben Jones.



COON CREEK – The UT Martin Coon Creek Science Center recently hosted the 46th Biennial Convention for Sigma Gamma Epsilon National Earth Science Society. Approximately 40 delegates, chapter advisers and UT Martin students participated in the three-day event representing 11 chapters from Tennessee, Texas, Illinois, Iowa, Connecticut, Indiana and Arkansas. The visiting delegates spent a day digging for fossils at the Coon Creek Science Center. Dr. Lionel Crews held a "star party" for the guests, and Dr. Michael Gibson gave a lecture on the Fossils of Coon Creek Lagerstätte Deposit. During the meeting, Gibson was re-elected as the Regional Vice President of the Southeastern Section of SGE and received an award for Distinguished Service to SGE for 2022.

Presented by: Latin Hispanic Student Association & Percussion Society

LATIN JAZZ NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 29
 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
 Fine Arts Building - Band Hall

LIVE MUSIC

PERFORMING
 UTM Big Band & Small Jazz Group
 Directed by: Dr. Kurt Gorman

NACHO BAR
 Pacer Pans
 Directed by: Dr. Brady Spitz

DRINKS

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EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK, CHANCELLORS – (l,r) UT Martin Chancellors Emeriti Nick Dunagan and Bob Smith and Chancellor Keith Carver were all in attendance when the new University of Tennessee Executive Leadership Institute class met Sept. 26 for a dinner and a presentation in the Martin Public Library Event Center. Dunagan offered his perspectives on effective leadership qualities and talked about his role in making the new Martin Public Library a reality. The ELI group met Sept. 26-27 in Martin and includes UT Martin class members Dominique Crockett, Dr. Andy Lewter and Dr. Anderson Starling among the 25 participants. Smith leads the ELI as special adviser for executive leadership and talent development to the UT president.

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based on his personal experience from eight international election observation missions.

Nekola received his doctorate in political science at the Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. His research is focused on non-democratic regimes, the era of Communism, the Cold War and the Czech communities in the U.S.

Following Nekola’s presentation on Oct. 13, Arlette Hargis will present “Bombed and Occupied - Ukrainians’ Daily Life.”

Hargis was born in Chernigiv, north the Ukrainian capital of Kiyv. For the past 14 years she has been a faculty member at Camden High School, teaching Russian language, ESL, and Mathematics. She is the founder and coordinator of a fundraising organization for the children of Ukraine.

For more information, contact **Dr. Alice-Catherine Carls**, professor of history, at accarls@utm.edu.

You Tell Me

- **Question** - Who at the university can sign a contract?
- **Answer** - Only Chancellor Keith Carver and Senior Vice Chancellor Petra McPhearson are authorized to sign contracts at UT Martin. Other university faculty and staff members should not sign any contract, agreement, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), terms of use, etc., on behalf of the University of Tennessee. Departments are responsible for complying with their contractual requirements. For questions, please consult the Contracts Policy (FI0420) or Joe Croom, joecroom@utm.edu.

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

addenda

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