

addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | Sept. 6, 2022

UT Martin Online MBA Program ranks among best in state and region

UT Martin has received recognition by onlinembareport.com for the high quality of its online Master of Business Administration program. UT Martin was ranked third in Tennessee behind the University of Memphis and UT Chattanooga and 18th in the South in the report. The website highlights the university for its small class sizes, collaborative projects, and leadership and global management-based curriculum.

The Online MBA Report serves as a starting point for prospective online MBA students across the country. The site generates roughly 25,000 user sessions per month, helping organize information so that students can help make individualized decisions about programs. In the past, admissions criteria, tuition costs and enrollment have been factors in the rankings. However, the 2022 rankings were based solely on reputation. More than 400 U.S.-based online MBA programs were evaluated, with UT Martin ranking among the top in each report.

UTM's Online MBA Program is a high-quality, convenient, practitioner-focused

Continued on PAGE 2



FOOD SUSTAINABILITY – Dr. Rachna Tewari, UT Martin associate professor of agricultural economics and agribusiness, is leading a project designed to strengthen sustainable food production and enhance agricultural productivity.

UTM RECEIVES USDA FOOD SUSTAINABILITY GRANT

UT Martin has received a \$299,932 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture program. The grant, entitled "Empowering small farmers and agriculture students: FSAS (Farmers' School for Agricultural Sustainability) and Experiential Learning Programs," will benefit a three-year project focusing on strengthening sustainable food production and enhancing agricultural productivity.

The program is being led by Dr. Rachna Tewari, associate

professor of agricultural economics and agribusiness. Co-project investigators include Dr. Isaac Lepcha, lecturer of plant and soil sciences; Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Gilbert Parker Chair of Excellence in agriculture and natural resources and professor of agricultural economics; Dr. Eric Pelren, professor of wildlife biology; Dr. Bethany Wolters, assistant professor of plant and soil sciences; Dr. Stan Dunagan, professor of geology; and Dr. Will Bird, associate professor of agricultural education.

The objective of this project is to build capacity for sustainable

agriculture-focused outreach, education and research programs for agricultural communities in West Tennessee and for students at UT Martin, with support from institutional supporter Penn State University in Pennsylvania.

UT Martin will be partnering with the Center for Engaged Learning Abroad in Belize, a program dedicated to providing a wide variety of experimental learning, focused on sustainability. Another partner is the Northwest Tennessee

Continued on PAGE 2

USDA GRANT from PAGE 1

Local Food Network located in Martin, which coordinates a thriving and equitable local food system that is accessible to all.

Key strategies to overcoming the challenges associated with global hunger issues are strengthening sustainable food production and enhancing agricultural productivity. The second sustainable development goal of the United Nations specifically highlights the need

for promoting sustainable agriculture by empowering small farmers. Smallholder farms are critical to the sustenance of rural economies in the U.S. and face significant constraints owing to increased rural-urban migration, older population involved in farming, consolidation and climate change.

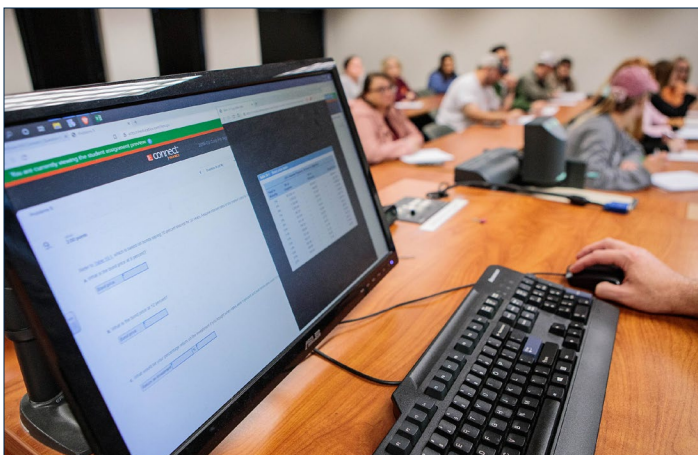
This project primarily aims to strengthen and empower smallholder farms involved in forage-livestock and vegetable production in West

Tennessee and Pennsylvania by demonstrating sustainable agriculture practices through research, a producer field school exchange program, the Farmers’ School for Agricultural Sustainability, and an agricultural sustainability and local foods conference.

Another goal is to promote global engagement and cultural awareness among students through an international travel-study program in partnership with Penn State University as

part of an embedded course in agricultural sustainability, with a focus on agroecology and indigenous communities. The program also plans to highlight the farmers markets in the region and local food networks to promote sustainability and food self-sufficiency in rural communities.

For more information regarding the grant, contact Tewari at (731)-881-7196 or rtewari@utm.edu.



MBA from PAGE 1

program that is designed for nontraditional students, such as full-time employees. The program is cohort based, providing a series of four- to five-week courses taught by full-time faculty. Students traditionally complete the Online MBA Program in approximately 18 months.

UT Martin undergraduate and graduate business programs are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business - International, which is considered a gold standard accreditation in business education. More than 16,000 colleges and schools of business are located around the world, but only 6% of those schools are

accredited by AACSB.

Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi, College of Business and Global Affairs dean, is pleased with the rankings and what it says about the program. “When an academic program receives recognition, regionally and nationally, it will serve as an external validation of the quality of the program,” Dr. Tootoonchi said. “Further, students chose our MBA program not only for the quality of our AACSB-accredited program, but also for the caring attention they receive.”

For more information, visit www.utm.edu/mba or contact Jennifer Killebrew, MBA program and student services coordinator at 731-881-7208.

Welcome UT Martin Skyhawks
In celebration of the reopening of
Clement Hall
&
Recognition of our new student services
One Stop Shop

Please join us for a University Open House
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Sept. 23, 2022

Stop by to visit, take a look at our facility improvements, and enjoy refreshments.

The submission deadline for Addenda content is noon on Thursdays.

Submissions can be sent to addenda@utm.edu

YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



Cooper Johnson, associate professor of management, was a featured speaker on Go Cloud Careers’s Tech Career Success Factors webinar episode titled “How to Get Hired in a Recession.”

The episode has garnered more than 1,300 views by an international audience.

Go Cloud Careers has a 20-year history of helping people build elite technology careers.



Ashley Bynum, associate athletic director for internal operations, has received a \$75,375 award for a one-year NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Program. Funds will be used for student-athlete mental health programming, academic support staffing and technology upgrades. This award is Bynum’s second NCAA grant, and she currently holds a 100% success rate for multiple grant proposals.

UTM RESEARCH SERIES

DR. TODD WINTERS

PRESENTS HIS RESEARCH ON

THE MAGIC BEAN:
Utilization of Soybeans & Effects on Mammalian Physiology

12:30 pm
Thursday, Sept. 8
Paul Meek Library

UT MARTIN Co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs and the UT Martin Libraries PAUL MEEK LIBRARY 731-881-7092 UTM.EDU/LIBRARY

CLICK THIS AD TO WATCH THE LIVESTREAM



UT MARTIN RECOGNIZES FACULTY PROMOTIONS, AWARDS AND TENURE STATUS – UT Martin recently hosted an annual dinner for faculty members who have received promotions and awards or gained tenure status during the current calendar year. Pictured are (seated, l-r) Dr. Julie Floyd, Dr. Shannon Chi, Dr. Elizabeth Stratton, Dr. Clinton Smith, Dr. Will Bird, Dr. Joshua Guerin and Jason Stout; (middle row, l-r) Dr. Dexter Davis, Dr. Sam Faught, Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Dr. Carrie Humphreys, Dr. Margaret Lewis, Dr. Timothy Dasinger, Dr. Justin Sims, Dr. Nancy Buschhaus, Dr. Keith Carver, Dr. Bryan Foltz; (back row, l-r) Dr. Danny Walker, Dr. Clint Ary, Sarah Haig, Dr. Alissa Parrish, Cindy West, Dr. Lynn Alexander, Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi and Dr. Erik Nordberg.



ATTEND FOOTBALL OPENING GAME - Chancellor Keith Carver is joined by Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett (center) and State Rep. Tandy Darby (R-District 76), of Greenfield, during the Skyhawks’ opening home football Sept. 1 at Hardy M. Graham Stadium. Hargett was elected by the Tennessee General Assembly to serve as Tennessee’s 37th secretary of state in 2009 and was re-elected in 2013, 2017 and 2021. Darby is a 1996 UT Martin graduate and assumed office Nov. 3, 2020.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

7 P.M.
OCT. 4
SKYHAWK
FIELDHOUSE



Heather McTeer Toney

Author of the essay “Collards are Just as Good as Kale” in UT Martin’s Common Reader, All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis.



POWERING UP – City, county, business and other officials were among those attending an announcement ceremony Aug. 30 when the Weakley County Municipal Electric System officially became the first local power company in Tennessee to install Electric Vehicle fast chargers as part of TVA’s regional Fast Charge Network. Two EV fast chargers located outside Martin City Hall became part of the Fast Charge TN program developed by TVA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Participating in the event and ribbon-cutting ceremony were Jake Bynum, Weakley County mayor; Betsy Kirk McCall, Seven States Power Corp. president and CEO; Randy Brundige, Martin mayor; Andrea Harrington, WCMES general manager; David Salyers, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation commissioner; and Jeff Lyash, TVA president and CEO. In addition to this event, the TVA board of directors held its quarterly business meeting Aug. 30-31 in the Boling University Center’s Duncan Ballroom.



WINTERS TO DISCUSS ‘THE MAGIC BEAN’ DURING SOYBEAN FESTIVAL WEEK

The UT Martin Research Series returns with a timely presentation about soybean research during the Tennessee Soybean Festival. **Dr. Todd Winters**, dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, will review his career-long research into soybeans with his presentation titled “The Magic Bean: Utilization of Soybeans and Effects on Mammalian Physiology.”

The presentation is free and open to the public and will start at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8, in the north reading room of the

library. Light refreshments will be served, and attendees are welcome to bring their lunch for the event. The presentation will be livestreamed at this [link](#) and archived for later viewing. The monthly research series highlights the research of campus faculty, staff and students and is co-sponsored by the university’s Division of Academic Affairs and the Paul Meek Library.

Moving beyond farm production of soybeans, Winters’ work has focused on the physiological effects of soybean consumption.

Soybeans and their products, including tofu, miso, and animal feed, deliver high levels of isoflavone proteins that impact glucose and lipid levels in humans and other mammals.

Winters joined UT Martin in 2013 following 19 years at Southern Illinois University. A native of Washington state, Winters’ research has been published in the “Journal of Medicinal Food,” the “Journal of Biomedicine and Biotechnology” and “FASEB,” the journal of the Federation of American Societies for

Experimental Biology. In June 2022, Winters took office as president of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA).

Parking for the reception will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off Mt. Pelia Road. Parking permits are available online at www.utm.edu/departments/publicsafety by selecting the “Online Visitor Parking Permit” link.

For more information, contact Dr. Erik Nordberg, library dean, at 731-881-7070.

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		<p>SOCCER vs Indiana State 4 pm</p> <p>FOOTBALL at Missouri State 7 pm</p>	<p>VOLLEYBALL Belmont 1:30 pm</p> <p>VOLLEYBALL Grambling State 6 pm</p>	<p>SOFTBALL vs John A. Logan 1 pm</p> <p>VOLLEYBALL at Middle Tennessee 1:30 pm</p> <p>SOCCER vs Florida Atlantic 6 pm</p>	<p>SOFTBALL vs Jefferson College 4 pm</p>


THIS WEEK IN SKYHAWK ATHLETICS





HOME GAMES IN ORANGE

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



You Tell Me

• **Question** – Why are there so many interim positions on campus now? Wasn't that a SACS issue last time? Will it be an issue in the upcoming reaccreditation?

• **Answer** – In the SACSCOC reaffirmation process, having a number of interim positions becomes an issue if there are other concerns such as financial shortfalls or a negative campus climate that are the underlying causes for people leaving. Most of the interim positions at the university are because the people who were in those positions have moved on to more prominent positions at other places. This should not be an issue in the upcoming reaccreditation, because the university can document why many of the people who formerly occupied those positions left.

Submit your questions anonymously to the Suggestion Box link at 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
 UT Martin is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA employer. E05-0415-00-001-23