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Bike-share program expands to 10 bicycles

The bike-share program begun on the UT Martin campus in Fall 2020 has just gotten better, adding five bicycles to its fleet and making it easier for more students to get across campus.

Dr. Sandy Mehlhorn and former faculty member Dr. Emalee Buttrey, on behalf of the Skyhawk Tractor Team and the UTM Student Cattleman’s Association, created the bicycle-share program, which allows students, faculty and staff to rent bikes for free to ride across campus and the surrounding community.

The program was made possible through a grant awarded by the UT Martin Center for Sustainability and supporting funds from the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources.

When the program began, Mehlhorn and Buttrey were able to purchase five bikes and docking stations that were located outside of Brehm Hall and the Boling University Center.

Dr. Eric Pelren, the coordinator of the Center for Sustainability, said the popularity of the bike-share program has kept things rolling.

“The campus bikes are free to use,” he said. “They are locked into some stands, and you use an app on your cellphone to unlock the bike using your UT Martin email address.

“You can use the bike up to six hours, and by the end of that time, you should find one of those stands to click the bike back into.”

Pelren said the app to be used is changing this year. The app used from the start of the program, Movatic, required people to end their rental time through the app.

“A lot of people would forget to do that,” he said. “So, the company is switching to a new app called On Bike Share. The nice thing about this new app is it does not require that you end your rental at the end of the time. When you click your bike back into the station, that automatically ends your rental for you.

“We do hope that people respect the six-hour time limit for the rental of the bikes. There are bike locks that they can use to lock up the bikes and keep them safe.”

The app is available at the app store. Registration for the app requires a UT Martin email address.

The program’s bicycles can be found at several locations on campus:
- The east side of Brehm Hall (three bikes)
- The southeast corner of Boling University Center (three bikes)
- In front of Gooch Hall (two bikes)
- In front of the Student Recreation Center (two bikes)

“We hope the people will enjoy it,” Pelren said. “We hope the people will take advantage of the opportunities, but respect the bikes and use them well.

“If there is something wrong with the bike, we have the opportunity to type in what the issue is. One of our Sustainability interns is going around trying to take care of those. For example, we had someone report a loose seat, so our intern is going to try to tighten that seat.”

There are bicycle service stations beside the stations at the Brehm Hall, Boling University Center and Gooch Hall that include a bike pump.

“If (riders) have another issue, they can put that on the app and we will get to it as quickly as we can,” Pelren said.

Pelren added that the program has been popular on campus.

“We’ve had hundreds of people registered into the program over the last few years, and we hope to have hundreds more,” he said.
YoUTMs highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff

Dr. Adnan Rasool announced the publication of his book, “Sabotage: Lessons in Bureaucratic Governance from Pakistan, Taiwan and Turkey.” The book answers the question “How does a state continue functioning and ensuring public service delivery even during times of political crisis?” by arguing that it is a high-quality bureaucracy operating with institutional autonomy. Using data obtained through fieldwork in Pakistan, Turkey and Taiwan, the peer-reviewed academic book explains how bureaucracy is the lynchpin that can save or sabotage a state. Rasool is an assistant professor of political science in UT Martin’s College of Business and Global Affairs.

Dr. Vicki Stewart, a lecturer of accounting in the College of Business and Global Affairs, was featured in WalletHub’s recent story titled “Best Savings Accounts.” You can read the story and related Q&A with Stewart here. WalletHub, based in Washington, D.C., is a financial website that offers information such as credit-improvement advice and personalized savings alerts. The site’s business-related features are supplemented with information from subject-matter experts.

Conrad Pegues, a public service librarian in the Paul Meek Library, has entries on gentrification and HIV/AIDS in “African American Activism and Political Engagement: An Encyclopedia of Empowerment” edited by Angela Jones and recently published by Bloomsbury. The book begins with a suite of seven long-form essays on various aspects of Black political involvement and empowerment, including the importance of Black women in early labor organizing; campaigns defending Black voting rights against suppression and disenfranchisement; the Black Lives Matter movement; and the contributions and legacy of the nation’s first Black president, Barack Obama. The encyclopedia itself contains about 200 authoritative entries on a wide assortment of topics related to African-American political activism and empowerment, including biographical profiles of key leaders and activists, political issues and topics of particular interest to African-American voters and lawmakers, important laws and court cases, influential organizations, and pivotal events in American culture that have influenced the trajectory of Black participation in the nation’s political life.

Library to host open house Sept. 13

The Paul Meek Library will host its annual open house and mini organization fair from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 13. This year’s theme is “Wild About PML,” and visitors will be encouraged to take a safari-like tour of library collections, services and spaces. Several departments, campus organizations and other partners will be represented. Participants can earn raffle entries for visiting each location and enter to win a variety of great prizes and gift baskets, including four tickets to the Nashville Zoo. The open house will also offer interactive games and activities and free refreshments. Parking for the reception will be in the Paul Meek Library parking lot on Wayne Fisher Drive off of Mount Pelia Road. Parking permits are available online at here. For more information, contact Pat Sanders at 731-881-7069.

Let the UT Martin community know about your most recent accolades by submitting a YoUTM to addenda@utm.edu.
Former Tennessee Gov. Don Sundquist died Sunday at the age of 87. He served 12 years in the U.S. House of Representatives (1983-95) and eight as governor (1995-2003). He is shown here (at center in the navy and gold tie) – with his predecessor, Gov. Ned McWherter, to his left – at the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 9, 1995, following renovations to the Paul Meek Library on the campus of UT Martin. The front row consists of (from left) SGA President Eric Maupin, Paul Meek’s daughter Dr. Ann Meek, UTM Chancellor Dr. Margaret Perry, McWherter, Sundquist, former U.S. Rep. Ed Jones, UT System President Dr. Joe Johnson, longtime University of Tennessee Trustee Tom Elam and Jimmie Corbitt, the namesake of the Corbitt Special Collections area of the Paul Meek Library.

Fall Preview Days for prospective students return Sept. 16

UT Martin invites prospective students to attend Fall Preview Days, to be held Saturday, Sept. 16, and Saturday, Nov. 11.

Students and their families may attend either of the preview days to learn more about the university and what it offers.

Members of the undergraduate admissions staff and others will be available to answer questions about academic programs, financial aid, scholarships, housing and student life. UT Martin students and faculty members will also be on hand to answer questions, and the morning will end with a campus tour.

The Fall Preview Days will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at the Boling University Center.

The schedule for the Fall Preview Days has students registering, enjoying a brunch and taking in the information fair at 10 a.m., followed by the welcome and admissions overview at 11 a.m.

A student panel will provide more information at 11:30 a.m., and at noon, participating students will enjoy academic department visits. From 1 to 3 p.m., there are breakout sessions, including campus tours, housing tours and more.

The event is free, and advance registration is encouraged at www.utm.edu/preview. More information is available by calling 731-881-7020 or sending an email to admissions@utm.edu.

Read more UT Martin news online at utm.edu/news.
Tennessee Soybean Festival returns to city, campus

UT Martin has partnered with the city of Martin and many others to bring the 30th annual Tennessee Soybean Festival back to Martin on Sept. 2-9.

This year, there are many events scheduled for the whole family, several of which will take place on UT Martin’s campus, including the ninth annual Guitar as Art show, the 5K Race and 1K Fun Run and the annual UT Martin Family Weekend, which coincides with the festival this year.

The Guitar as Art show will take place in the Fine Arts Building on campus at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 3. The exhibit is free to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

The event features 30 guitars that have been altered using various 2-D media methods to represent this year’s themes of getting back together and old places, new horizons.

“Guitar as Art is one of the best parts about the Soybean Festival,” said Professor Jason Stout, the event coordinator. “People should come see the great creativity of our local and surrounding community artists.”

To kick off Family Weekend, UT Martin has also partnered to bring the Brothers Osborne show to Martin on Friday, Sept. 8, which will be held at WK&T Amphitheater.

UT Martin’s Flight Crew will give away 1,000 free tickets to the Brothers Osborne concert by attending the free ticket giveaway at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29, on the Boling University Center North Patio. Tickets may also be ordered online at tnsoybeanfestival.org. Tickets for the concerts range from $20 to $40.

The 5K Race and 1K Fun Run will be held on campus at the UT Martin Elam Center beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9. Those who would like to participate in the race must pre-register online by visiting tnsoybeanfestival.org.

Registration for the race ranges from $5 to $10 per person. At the conclusion of the race, awards will be given to the first-through third-place finishers in each age group competing in the 5K and the first-through third-place finishers in the 1K Kid Race for boys and girls 10 and under. Along with the events happening on campus, there are several other events scheduled throughout the week. Visit tnsoybeanfestival.org for the complete schedule of events and ticket prices.

You Tell Me

• Question – Is there a listing of main-campus conference rooms and the contact names for scheduling these various meeting spaces?

• Answer – A comprehensive list of main-campus conference rooms and meeting spaces does not exist. Until such a list is available, conference rooms and meeting spaces are normally assigned to departments. The actual room scheduler is not normally the building manager; however, building managers should know to whom spaces belong and can point the meeting-space requestor in the right direction.

Submit your questions to Addenda at addenda@utm.edu.