

# addenda



The University of Tennessee at Martin Faculty and Staff Newsletter | March 20, 2017

## Faculty meeting addresses accessibility laws, campus updates

Matthew Scoggins, general legal counsel for the University of Tennessee System, visited campus March 16 to discuss the accessibility of campus technology during a general faculty meeting in Watkins Auditorium.

Federal law states that “students with disabilities must be afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions and enjoy the same services in the same timeframe as students without disabilities with a substantially equivalent ease of use.”

We often think of this law applying to those with mobility challenges accessing buildings and other campus areas; however, the law also applies to students with visual or hearing impairments who are unable to access websites, online documents, course content, lecture slides, Banner or other campus resources.

Scoggins says the easiest way to address these concerns is to incorporate accessibility into each course from the design stage, although improvements can and should be made to existing course materials as well. Examples include providing written descriptions of necessary photographs, embedding website code to allow disability software to read content aloud and providing closed-captioning on video content.

This is not the same as simply accommodating a student with disabilities by providing alternate material when needed. Scoggins stressed the point



**Matthew Scoggins, general legal counsel for the University of Tennessee System**

that students must be able to access class content without unnecessary delays in order to learn the same material on the same schedule as their classmates without disabilities.

Federal enforcement of these laws has increased in recent years, and heavy fines and penalties can be levied against offending institutions. An eight-person committee exists on campus to assist faculty in the effort to make technological resources accessible.

Dr. Keith Carver, UT Martin chancellor, followed Scoggins to provide updates on enrollment numbers, key campus position searches and legislation concerning the university.

Carver says the number of admitted students, both first-time freshmen and transfer students, is up from this time last year. This includes both in-state and out-of-state applications. Staff members from the Office

of Undergraduate Admissions are working hard to reach the university’s goals for the fall semester, and noticeable improvements have been made in many areas.

The national search for a university provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs is underway, and approximately 30 qualified applications have already been received. The search committee will meet March 22 to narrow down the pool of applicants, and candidates are expected to visit campus on or around April 6.

The search for a director of intercollegiate athletics has identified several potential candidates, and they are expected to visit campus in the coming weeks. Approximately 40 applications have been received for the position of chief information officer, and interviews for that position will start in mid-April as well.

A candidate for the position of library director will participate in an open forum presentation tomorrow, March 21, at 3:30. See the calendar on page five for detailed information.

Several pieces of legislation are being discussed in Nashville this week, including a bill to expand the on-campus gun carry laws to include part-time employees, a bill regulating student disciplinary actions and due process representation, legislation discussing the in-state status of undocumented students, and material concerning potential third-party financial audits of higher education institutions. The UT System is watching all these discussions and will keep employees informed of changes as they occur.

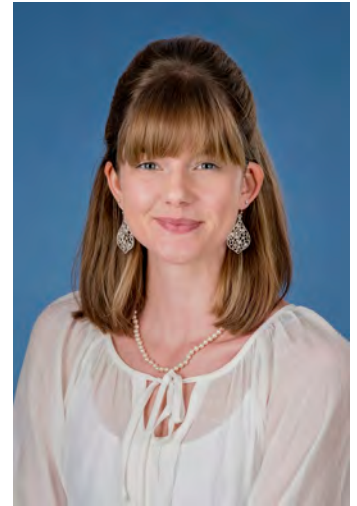
Carver also gave an update on the “Cruisin’ with Carver” tour results. See [the March news story online](#) for those numbers.

# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of  
our faculty and staff



Eight faculty members from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics recently attended the Southeastern Mathematical Association of America meeting at Mercer University in Macon, Ga. **Dr. Louis Kolitsch** (above, left), professor, presented “Some Interesting Properties of p-regular Partitions,” and **Dr. Brian Wagner** (above, right), associate professor, presented “Ascending Subgraph Decompositions of Tournaments Minus an (Almost) Perfect Matching.” Wagner also served as a co-organizer of the Math Jeopardy Tournament, in which four UT Martin students competed and advanced to the semi-finals. The department was able to take seven undergraduate students and one graduate student to the conference. Jake Eskew, of Kenton, won one of nine Walt and Susan Patterson prizes for an outstanding presentation by an undergraduate. He is the second UT Martin student to receive one of these prizes. Eskew is mentored by **Dr. Chris Caldwell**, professor of mathematics. Andrea Austin, of Troy, also made a presentation; and Laura Coker, of Castalian Springs, and Anna Shelton, of Adamsville, co-presented a poster.



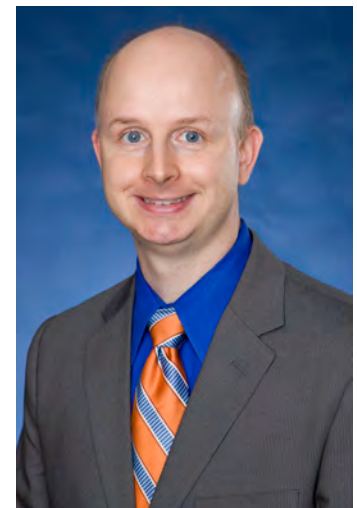
**Phillip Taylor** (above, left) and **Meghan Lupole** (above, right), both instructors in the Office of International Programs and International Admissions, recently attended the Tennessee Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages Conference, where they gave a presentation on “ESL and the Art of References.” The pair received one of three \$400 travel grants to present their material at the Southeast Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages Conference in Birmingham, Ala. They were also awarded the top prize, an additional travel grant to attend the international conference in Chicago, Ill., next March.



**Dr. Roberto Mancusi**, associate professor of music, gave a recital and master class at Glendale Community College in Phoenix, Ariz., on March 7. The recital was the first stop on his “The Big Sing Theory” concert tour, which he hopes to take as far as Great Britain in the coming year. The recital and master class were conducted at the invitation of the Glendale Community College Department of Music, and Mancusi has already been invited back.



**Dr. Clinton Smith**, assistant professor of special education, co-wrote an article titled “Examining Self-Monitoring Interventions for Academic Support of Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders,” which will be included in the next issue of the “Journal of International Special Needs Education.”



**Dr. Joseph Frye**, assistant professor of music, performed an alto trombone solo in Mozart’s “Der Hölle Rache” and as a member of the Great River Trombone Quartet during the 2017 American Trombone Workshop, hosted March 8-11 at Fort Meyer in Washington, D.C.

Send your Addenda news to Erin Chesnut at [echesnut@utm.edu](mailto:echesnut@utm.edu) by noon on Thursdays.



## UT Martin nursing program in state's top 10

The UT Martin Department of Nursing has been ranked eighth in Tennessee by RegisteredNursing.org. The website evaluated 41 nursing programs statewide and determined UT Martin's Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program to be one of the best.

The website looked primarily at pass rates for the National Council Licensure Examination when determining ranking placement. The UT Martin Department of Nursing's 2016 graduating class achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-RN as first-time test takers last year, and previous classes have achieved similarly high results.

"I am always proud of our graduates and the hard work they put into preparing for the NCLEX-RN. This ranking highlights the tradition of success we have at UT Martin," said Dr. Mary Radford, chair of the UT Martin Department of Nursing. "I look forward to seeing current and future students be successful not only on the licensure exam, but



**HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE – UT Martin nursing students are shown practicing hands-on skills in an on-campus laboratory.**

through service and professional growth in their nursing careers."

The UT Martin BSN clinical program includes more than 900 hours of hands-on clinical experience in hospitals and health-care facilities across the state. The UT Martin

Department of Nursing maintains partnerships with facilities throughout Tennessee, providing students with one of the widest varieties of clinical experiences available in the region.

According to the ranking

website, the nursing industry is growing in Tennessee, and the state is expected to hire an estimated 1,800 new nurses per year for the next five years.

## Dr. Amy Bix to discuss the history of women in engineering

Dr. Amy Bix, associate professor of history at Iowa State University, will visit the University of Tennessee at Martin on March 23 as part of the spring 2017 Academic Speaker Series.

Bix will give a presentation on "Girls Coming to Tech: A History of American Engineering Education for

Women" beginning at 6 p.m. in the Boling University Center's Watkins Auditorium.

Bix, who also serves as director of Iowa State University's Center for Historical Studies of Technology and Science, holds a doctorate in the history of science from Johns Hopkins University.

She has been with ISU

since 1993 where she teaches courses in women's history and the histories of technology, medicine, popular culture and women in science, among other topics.

She won the Betty Vetter Award for Research from the Women in Engineering ProActive Network in 2014 for notable achievement in research related to women in

the engineering profession.

That same year, she also published her most recent book, which shares the title of her presentation, through MIT Press.

Her presentation is free and open to the public. The annual Academic Speaker Series is sponsored by UT Martin Honors Programs.

Additional, detailed academic calendars have been added to the [registrar's website](#). Please use these when planning course syllabi and assisting students with registration.

## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Daniel Nappo



**Dr. Daniel Nappo, professor of Spanish**

Dr. Daniel Nappo, professor of Spanish, originally intended to be an English professor, until an introductory Spanish class in his master's program sparked his interest in the language.

"In order to make more progress, I started studying during the summer in Mexico for six to eight weeks at a time. I just fell in love with the

culture and fell in love with the language," he said.

Nappo, a native of Bay City, Mich., graduated summa cum laude from Saginaw Valley State University with a bachelor's degree in English. In 1996, he received his master's degree in comparative literature from Michigan State University, from which he also holds a doctoral degree in Spanish language and literature.

His interest in literature developed at an early age and was influenced by his mother, who took American and British literature courses at a local community college and spoke about her experiences.

"She made it sound like it was Berkeley, Calif. (There were) so many different things going on and so many different ideas in the classroom," he said.

Nappo saw the benefit of knowing different languages and how this knowledge could enhance his research early in his master's program.

As he became more proficient in the Spanish language, he transitioned from teaching integrated arts and humanities courses in literature, history and English to teaching introductory Spanish.

"I almost couldn't believe I was getting paid for teaching all these interesting topics in Spanish and Hispanic culture. From that point on, I caught fire, and I got interested in study abroad, which I think is really exciting and is part of my job here," said Nappo.

While at UT Martin, Nappo has led several travel-study trips to Mexico and Spain and is responsible for coordinating a four-week study-abroad program in Toledo, Spain, every summer.

Traveling abroad gives students an opportunity for total language immersion, an element of learning a foreign language Nappo finds extremely beneficial. "The student is obliged to speak the language to get what they need. It's sort

of like the difference between learning about swimming in a classroom or learning about swimming by jumping into a pool," he said.

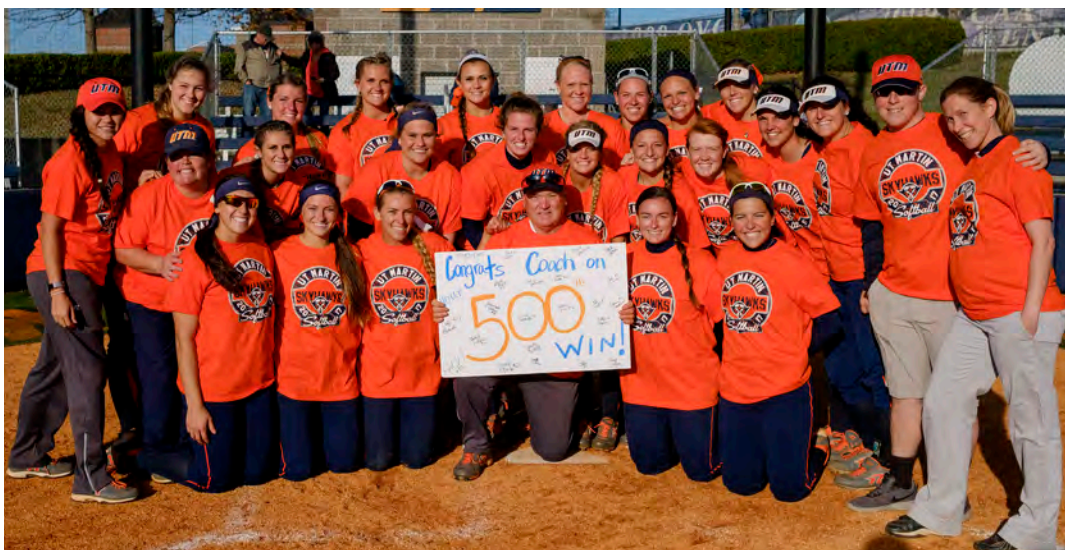
As a professor, his goal is not only to teach students Spanish but get them excited about learning the language. "I think the best teachers are the ones (who) make themselves obsolete – which is to say that the students can't learn anything more from them," he said.

Nappo's love for Spanish and learning are passions he hopes to pass along to his students. "If I could sort of ignite that little spark in a student and then he or she goes on to continue studying Spanish without me, I'd feel very happy," he said.



**CAREER AND INTERNSHIP FAIR** – The UT Martin Office of Career Planning and Development hosted the spring career and internship fair March 16 in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom. Students were able to speak with representatives from businesses and universities about internships, job openings and graduate school opportunities. The Office of Career Planning and Development offers a variety of services and workshops throughout the year to help students at all levels narrow their career focuses and prepare for the job-search process. Anna Shelton, from Adamsville, is pictured speaking with a potential job recruiter. Shelton is a senior majoring in mathematics. For more information about services for career placement, contact the office at 731-881-7712.





**500TH WIN** – Donley Canary (center, kneeling), head coach of the Skyhawk softball team, gained his 500th career win March 1 when the Skyhawks triumphed over Christian Brothers University in Skyhawk Park. The team had commemorative shirts made for the occasion (pictured below).



## Calendar

- **March 20-26** – Early registration for Maymester and summer 2017 courses
  - **March 20** – Title IX commission visit and discussion; Welcome Center; noon-1 p.m.
  - **March 20** – What Women Want fashion show and dinner; Hollianne Carver, keynote speaker; Duncan Ballroom; 4:30-8:30 p.m.
  - **March 20** – Men’s basketball vs. Campbell University; CIT second round; Buies Creek, N.C.; 6 p.m. (Listen live on Star 95.1 FM)
  - **March 21** – Open forum: Library director candidate, “Positioning Academic Libraries in an Era of Assessment and Student Learning Objectives”; Paul Meek Library, room 118; 3:30-4:30 p.m.
  - **March 21** – Food Insecurity Forum: John’Na Webster; Watkins Auditorium; 6 p.m.
  - **March 21** – Baseball vs. Alabama A&M; Skyhawk Park; 6 p.m.
  - **March 21** – Small jazz group concert; Blankenship Recital Hall; 7:30-9:30 p.m.
  - **March 23** – Training: “Getting Started with Canvas”; Paul Meek Library, room 215; 2-3 p.m.\*
  - **March 23** – Training: “Canvas: Intro to Building Course Content”; Paul Meek Library, room 215; 3-4 p.m.\*
  - **March 23** – Academic speaker: Dr. Amy Bix, “Girls Coming to Tech: A History of American Engineering Education for Women”; Watkins Auditorium; 6-8 p.m.
  - **March 23** – Sigma Alpha Iota musicale; Blankenship Recital Hall; 7:30-9 p.m.
  - **March 24** – Tennis vs. Belmont; Skyhawk Tennis Complex; 2 p.m.
  - **March 24** – Training: “Office 365: Overview for Faculty and Staff”; Paul Meek Library, room 215; 11 a.m.-noon or 3-4 p.m.\*
  - **March 24** – Guest artist: BlueSHIFT Percussion Quartet; Percussion Rehearsal Hall; 1:30-3 p.m.
  - **March 24** – Baseball vs. Belmont; Skyhawk Park; 6 p.m.
  - **March 25** – Tennis vs. Tennessee State; Skyhawk Tennis Complex; 2 p.m.
  - **March 25** – Baseball vs. Belmont; Skyhawk Park; 3 p.m.
  - **March 25** – Baseball vs. Belmont; Skyhawk Park; 1 p.m.
  - **March 27-31** – Early registration for fall 2017 courses
  - **March 27** – Training: “Office 365: Overview for Faculty and Staff”; Paul Meek Library, room 215; 10-11 a.m.\*
  - **March 27** – Training: “Getting Started with Canvas”; Paul Meek Library, room 215; 11 a.m.-noon\*
- \*Register online at [utm.edu/departments/itc/register.php](http://utm.edu/departments/itc/register.php).

## You Tell Me

- **Question** – Does a faculty/staff meal plan expire?
- **Answer** – Faculty/staff meal plans do not expire until all meals and/or Captain’s Cash funds have been depleted. The meal plan balance rolls over from semester to semester and remains valid during the summer break. Captain’s Cash can be used at the Skyhawk Dining Hall, Food Court, On the Fly convenience store, Captain’s Coffee, The Hangar Coffee Shop and the Gooch Hall kiosk.

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

## addenda

Published weekly during the academic year and biweekly during the summer by UT Martin, Martin, TN 38238  
 Dr. Joseph DiPietro – President, University of Tennessee System • Dr. Keith Carver – Chancellor • Erin Chesnut – Addenda Editor  
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