Homecoming Week shows UTM is ‘All That!’

When alumni think of Homecoming, they think of attending the football game and seeing old friends, but Homecoming Week is much more than that. In fact, “UT Martin is All That!”

That theme for the 2023 Homecoming Week says it all, as from Oct. 15 through Oct. 22, UT Martin will have several fun events and interesting programs to showcase the many facets of university life.

More than 30 events and programs line the university calendar for that week, including:

• The ROTC Homecoming Color Run will help open Homecoming Week at 2 p.m. on Oct. 15 at Pacer Pond, with a fireworks show there that begins at 8 p.m.

• The Skyhawk football team continues its quest for a third straight conference title when it takes on Charleston Southern at 2 p.m. on Oct. 21 in a Big South-Ohio Valley Conference Football Association matchup.

• The inaugural Dr. Henry H. Parker Speaker Series is a new tradition to add to the UTM Homecoming schedule with Dr. Ibram Kendi as this year’s featured speaker at 11 a.m. on Oct. 20.

• Alumni and their guests can gather at the Alumni After Hours social event at 5 p.m. on Oct. 19 in downtown Martin.

• The week concludes with a Homecoming brunch at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 22 in the Boling University Center dining hall. Alumni can vote for their favorite Homecoming banner at the alumni Facebook page. Links to do that and more information about UTM Homecoming Week – including an up-to-date schedule of events and programs and lodging information – can be found at alumni.utm.edu/homecoming.

Above photo: The UT Martin Aviators Marching Band wends its way through the quad as part of Quad City during last year’s Homecoming Week.

Right photo: Skyhawk redshirt freshman tight end Max Dowling puts the ball over the goal line in overtime to put UT Martin ahead for good against Eastern Illinois on Oct. 7. UT Martin won the battle of top-25 teams 28-27 to claim the top spot in the Big South-OVC Football Association. The Skyhawks will take on conference opponent Charleston Southern in this year’s Homecoming game on Oct. 21 at Hardy M. Graham Stadium.
Dr. Lajuan Davis and Dr. Dexter Davis of the College of Business and Global Affairs attended the Society for Experiential Education Conference on Sept. 25-27 in Orlando, Florida, to deliver the presentation “Devising a Professional Development Course to Enhance Student Employability.”

The presentation highlighted faculty who are committed to helping students identify and develop skills for employment in an ever-changing global workforce.

In order to meet students’ needs, the needs of the current workforce and promote program growth and innovation in a college of business, several faculty undertook the task of creating a professional-development course that is rich with experiential-learning activities and is taught in the business communication curriculum.

This presentation showcased the research supporting the feasibility of creating a professional-development class, the units that are taught in the class and some of the experiential-learning activities and techniques used to teach students important and essential life and work skills.

Dr. Dr. Chris Baxter, a professor of political science, will explore recent events requiring application of the U.S. Constitution 235 years after its ratification.

The event, part of the UT Martin Research Series, is scheduled to be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12, at the Martin Public Library to coincide with the visit of the Smithsonian traveling exhibit, “Voices and Votes: Democracy in America.”

The event is open to the public.

Baxter’s research interests include constitutional law, judicial politics and state and local government.

Recent work considers how special-interest groups attempt to influence judicial elections and decisions.

UT Martin is a supporting partner for the visit of the “Voices and Votes” exhibit visiting the Martin Public Library through Nov. 18.

The exhibit examines the nearly 250-year-old American experiment of a government “of, by and for the people.”

The monthly UT Martin Research Series is co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs and the Paul Meek Library to highlight the research of campus faculty, staff and students.

For more information about the event, contact Dr. Erik Nordberg, dean of the Paul Meek Library, at 731-881-7070.

Additional information about the “Voices and Votes” exhibit, including a calendar of events accompanying the exhibit is available online here.

Dr. Jamye Long and Dr. Cooper Johnson, both associate professors of management, will be featured speakers at the 2023 Go Cloud Careers Summit scheduled for Oct. 13-15 in Orlando, Florida.

The event, in which the theme is “Performance Personified,” will include sessions on building effective working relationships, preparing for success, exercising influence, marketing oneself for greatness, capitalizing on what makes a person unique and rising to the top.

Long and Johnson will join the Go Cloud Careers team in making the summit a rewarding experience for attendees.

With registration limited, those attending will be a part of an event designed to give them a big advantage in their tech career plans.

Let the UT Martin community know about your most recent accolades by submitting a YoUTM to addenda@utm.edu.
Empty Bowls Project returns to Martin Public Library

The Martin Empty Bowls Project fundraiser for We Care Ministries will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Martin Public Library stage in downtown Martin.

Martin Empty Bowls was founded in 2003 by retired UT Martin art professor and potter David McBeth. Martin Empty Bowls’ mission is to fight world hunger, beginning with those hungry in their own community, and to raise awareness of food insecurity in northwest Tennessee.

Every $15 donation given to the local food pantry is thanked by the gift of a handmade ceramic bowl. James Woolery, a lecturer in the department of visual and theatre arts, is overseeing the event.

All donations made to Martin Empty Bowls goes to the We Care Ministries Food Pantry that serves Weakley County. The bowls are made by McBeth, Woolery and UT Martin students.

We Care Ministries was founded in 1973 and receives no government funding. All monetary donations are used to assist Weakley County families through 11 assistance programs that include the food bank, education and literacy, childcare and direct aid.

Information about the Empty Bowls fundraiser is available at www.martinemptybowls.com and www.facebook.com/martinemptybowls.

The UT Martin Educator Preparation Program in the College of Education, Health and Behavioral Sciences will host its second annual Diversity Conference from 8 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Oct. 18, in Watkins Auditorium in the Boling University Center. Light refreshments will be served.

This year’s conference topic is “Diversity in K-12 Schools,” and it includes panelists from various local education agency partnering districts. Panelists for the Diversity Conference include:

• Nadie Beard, a teacher at Jackson Central-Merry 6-12 Middle and High School
• Craig Clay, a college access counselor for Gibson County Schools
• Dr. Jamie Elliott, the assistant principal at East Elementary School in the Humboldt City Schools district
• Grover Harwell, the principal of Humboldt Junior and Senior High School
• Dr. Taurus Hines, the principal of Rozelle Elementary School for Creative and Performing Arts in the Memphis-Shelby County School district
• Whitney Pope, the school counselor for South Fulton Middle and High School
  • Kamala Rogers, the principal of Dyersburg Middle School
  • Dorothea Royle, the principal of McKenzie Middle School
  • Dr. Patrick Washington, the executive director of Man Up Teacher Fellowship, a nonprofit recruiting and training organization for men of color seeking a career in education

Dr. Cheryl Stewart, the manager of the UTM New Teacher Program, will serve as the moderator for the event.

The Fall 2023 Diversity Conference will address the needs of students while aligning with the Educator Preparation Program (EPP), university mission and accreditation standards and goals for recruitment and retention.

The UT Martin Educator Preparation Program prepares teachers to become facilitators of active learning for preschool through 12th-grade students through a variety of field-placement opportunities.

These experiences are intended to provide candidates with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively lead a classroom, collaborate with colleagues and impact the community.

The UT Martin EPP serves more than 35 school districts per semester, representing a large footprint throughout the state. The UT Martin EPP has diversified teacher preparation pathways to accommodate the recent need for licensed educators in all program areas across the state. The university serves as one of the largest job-embedded graduate programs as well as the largest career and technical education certification program in the state.

Additionally, UT Martin’s New Teacher Induction Program continues to provide unique support to program completers for the first three years following graduation in an effort to accelerate the success of new teachers, students and school districts where they serve.

This program enhances the EPP’s continuous improvement efforts as well as primary and state partnerships with the local education agencies that it serves.

For more information, contact Stewart at cstewa72@utm.edu or 731-881-7201.
‘Take Flight With Freeman Tour’ is on the road again

UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Yancy Freeman (center) visited the UT Martin Somerville Center on Oct. 6 as part of his “Take Flight with Freeman Tour,” which brings him to several West Tennessee counties. Pictured are (front row from left) former State Sen. Dolores Gresham, Program Resource Specialist Kayla Dillon, UTM Somerville Center Director Kara Tapp, Freeman, Executive Director of Regional Centers and Online Programs Erica Bell, Executive Director of Leadership Fayette Molly McCarley, (back row from left) Somerville Community Development Director Mendi Donnelly, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences Interim Dean Dr. Nancy Buschhaus, Somerville Administrator Bob Turner, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Dr. Charley Deal, Fayette County Mayor Rhea “Skip” Taylor, Somerville Mayor Ronnie Neill, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations Dr. Jackie Johnson, General District Attorney and Somerville Center professor Mark Davidson, adjunct professor Richard Rucker and lecturer Michael Gurley.

You Tell Me

• Question – Who can park and connect a trailer or RV at the West Tennessee Agricultural Pavilion lot, and is there a cost? If the lot is open to hookups, is there a webpage or other source of information about pricing and hookup guidelines?

• Answer – Anyone can use the RV hookups at the West Tennessee Agriculture Pavilion parking lot. Although anyone is welcome to stay in the RV parking lot, spaces may not be available if the pavilion is hosting an event. The cost is $20 per night (cash or check only; if writing a check, please make it out to “UTM”) for water and electric hookups. A sewage dump isn’t available on the property. Currently, there is no university website that covers this information. Those interested may call the UTM Department of Agriculture, Geoscience, and Natural Resources at 731-881-7260 to reserve a parking spot. When the new ag pavilion supervisor is hired, that person will assume duties for coordinating the RV stays as well as the different events at the pavilion.

Submit your questions to Addenda at addenda@utm.edu.
Choro das 3 to perform on campus on Oct. 25

UT Martin will present a group that plays a classic Brazilian style, as Choro das Três (Choro das 3) will perform in the Blankenship Recital Hall in the Fine Arts Building at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 25.

Choro das 3 is a Brazilian group who perform choro, a popular urban music genre in Brazil known for its often upbeat rhythms and virtuosity required by performers.

For 19 years, Choro das 3 was a family-based band formed by the three sisters – Corina (flute and piccolo), Lia (seven-string guitar) and Elisa (mandolin, clarinet, banjo, piano and accordion) – and their father, Eduardo (pandeiro), who died from COVID-19 on June 11, 2021.

Choro das 3 has released 11 albums and has been touring in North America, Europe and Brazil for the past 21 years.

Choro das 3 won the inaugural Adoniran Music Festival in 2003, and was awarded Best Group of Popular Music according to the Paulista Association of Critics of Art in 2008. That was the first year an instrumental music group won that award.

The trio plays Brazilian instrumental music based on choro, an instrumental music genre that emerged in Brazil in the 19th century to become the foundation for all Brazilian music.

2023 WORLD COLLEGE RADIO DAY

WUTM 90.3 “The Hawk” observed World College Radio Day on Friday, Oct. 6, with a live remote broadcast outside the Boling University Center. The remote included live interviews and giveaways.

WUTM has been on the air since Nov. 17, 1971, and since 2005, WUTM has been honored with close to 400 awards, including “Best College Radio Station in the Nation” and “Best College Radio Station in the South.” “The Hawk” is the current “Best College Radio Station in the South” as designated by the Southeast Journalism Conference, and it has achieved this distinction 11 times over the past 18 years. Dr. Richard Robinson, professor of mass media and strategic communication, is the station’s longtime faculty adviser. Pictured at the remote broadcast are (from left) Antonia Steele, graduate assistant from Ashland City; Colby Macklin, a senior from Ripley; Lauryn Davis, a senior from Memphis; and Savannah Carr, a sophomore from Martin. All are students in the UTM Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication.