



PSA VOICE

November 2017



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION



IN THE SPOTLIGHT *Stacie Nowak*

Stacie is the Supplemental Instruction Coordinator with Academic Support Services

How long have you been a Rocket and in what capacity?

Once a Rocket, always a Rocket. My first experience as a Rocket was from 2004-2007 as a non-traditional student in the Judith Herb College of Education. I graduated in May 2007 with a Bachelor of Education degree. After earning a Master of Education degree from Lourdes College and working in higher education for a few years, I returned home to UT in January 2015 to begin working as the Supplemental Instruction (SI) Coordinator.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of the Professional Staff Council (PSC), thank you to all who participated in the UT Day of Giving. A special thanks to everyone who made a gift to the PSA Scholarship Fund; we raised \$1,100! One of PSC's goals for 2017-2018 is to grow our fundraising efforts and we are well under way thanks to the support of PSA members. There will be additional opportunities to benefit the PSA Scholarship Fund during the month of November such as the **UT Holiday Bazaar** on Friday, November 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the UTMC Bistro (first floor). Vendors will include Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Scentsy, handmade gifts, and much more. Please come out, bring your colleagues, and treat yourself or shop for others on your holiday list. We look forward to seeing you! **Go Rockets!**



Lori DeShetler, PhD

DINE AND DONATE ON NOVEMBER 21

You can contribute to the PSA Scholarship Fund just by eating lunch or dinner! **Blaze Pizza** at Central and Secor will donate 20% of the proceeds from your lunch on Tuesday, November 21. Stop in between 11:30 am and 2:30 pm, and be sure to bring the Blaze Pizza flyer with you (which you can show by phone!)

Can't make it out for lunch? Grab dinner at **Panda Express** on Route 20 in Rossford between 4 and 9 p.m. to have 20% of your meal proceeds donated to the PSA Scholarship Fund, and remember to bring the Panda Express flyer or show by phone.

Watch for the PSA Blast with the event flyers, and dine and donate on November 21!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT *continued*

How would you describe your job?

Highly rewarding, inspirational, and invaluable. The SI program supports academically demanding courses by providing three weekly peer-led study sessions for each class in which we are assigned. Students who regularly attend SI sessions earn higher course GPAs than the students who do not. As the SI Coordinator, I am fortunate to interact and communicate with my amazing student staff, faculty members, and the students we serve on a regular basis. It is not uncommon for a student to stop me and boast about how much the SI program has helped him/her. I come to work every day knowing I coordinate a program that makes a difference. How lucky am I?

What distinguishes UT from other workplaces?

For me, personally, UT is a second home. I have so many great memories from my time here as a student. These memories come to life as I walk around campus or present in various classrooms. I met my best friend here! On a professional level, the UT community and the passion that goes into serving our students makes this a great place to work.

What resources from UT are your "must-haves" to perform your job?

First and foremost, my student staff. They are the "brains and brawn" of the SI program. They work hard and help so many students on a weekly basis. Second, my immediate co-workers. The professional staff in Academic Support Services is a tightknit team. We work well together and regularly support one another. Michele Soliz laid the groundwork for creating our camaraderie, and Tia Tucker maintains the same atmosphere. Performing my job in this type of work environment is a "must-have" for me.

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT A WINNER!

Success Coaches Sarah Bargardi, Aleiah Jones, and Marissa Reid gathered with professionals from UT and BGSU in Rocket Hall on November 2 to share their presentation, *Nudging Students to Succeed: A Model of an Impactful Communications Strategy*. The presentation, hosted by the professional development committee, provided an overview of the concept of nudging (Thaler & Sunstein), as applied in higher education. It also showcased some of their Communication Committee's guidelines, strategies and data, and introduced some of the free technology tools that they have found to be effective for communication with students. Their session won *Best of OHAAA* at the Ohio Academic Advising Association annual conference in June, 2017, and was selected as a sponsored session for the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) annual conference this past October. The trio is sponsored by OHAAA to present again at the NACADA Region 5 Conference, to be held in Columbus in April, 2018.

References: Thaler, Richard H., and Cass R. Sunstein. *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness*. Penguin Books, 2009.



Aleiah Jones presented with colleagues Sarah Bargardi and Marissa Reid in Rocket Hall on November 2, 2017 to professionals in higher education from UT and BGSU.



Have a suggestion for our next newsletter? Ever considered nominating someone for the Spotlight feature? Did you attend a PSA or UT event and have pictures to share? Let us know with a simple email to utpsc@utoledo.edu

IN THE SPOTLIGHT continued

What is your favorite thing about UT?

Our campus's beauty; from the architecture to the grounds. I especially love how beautiful our campus is early in the morning after a fresh snow.

Can you tell us something about yourself that most people would be surprised to learn?

My first degree was from culinary school. Cooking has been one of my passions since 5th grade, when I started cooking with my mom. Prior to earning my education degrees, I worked in the restaurant industry for

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PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

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FREE TRAVEL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

If you didn't have an opportunity to attend the UT Benefits Fair, here is some info about the **free Travel Assistance** that is provided to all UT employees as one of the benefits included by Sun Life Insurance.

Assist America is an emergency assistance company in place to service policyholders with Sun Life when they travel and experience a travel-related medical emergency. **UT's membership # is 01-AA-SUL-100101.** As an assistance company and not insurance, there are no financial caps on the amount of medical evacuation and repatriation services they provide. However, Assist America needs to make all arrangements in order for the assistance services to be paid. If you have specific health insurance questions or concerns, please contact your health insurance provider for policy coverage details **prior to travel.**

Should you plan to travel for more than 90 days, additional expatriate coverage can be purchased to maintain access to their services via the website under "Additional Services". Please visit their [website](#) for additional information. Use UT's membership number #01-AA-SUL-100101 to log-in. You can also download the free Assist America app on your smartphone at either the [Apple Store iPhone App](#): or the [Google Play Store Android App](#):

Assist America may be reached by calling 800-872 1414 within the U.S. or collect call outside the US at 609-986-1234 using international operator assistance to place the collect call for you to the USA. If an international operator is not available and you place a direct call to the USA, dial *001-609-986-1234* and please have a contact phone number available to provide and Assist America will call you back immediately. Text messaging is available by texting the phone #609-334-0807. You may also contact them via e-mail at medservices@assistamerica.com





The University of Toledo
Holiday Bazaar

Sponsored by the UT Professional Staff Council

Friday, November 17, 2017
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
UTMC Four Seasons Bistro Atrium

Come out and shop for your holiday gifts!

Vendors include Pampered Chef, Mary Kay, Scentsy, handmade gifts and crafts, and more!

UTC3: WE ARE ONE!

UT's annual community charitable campaign runs through Friday, December 22nd and supports 200+ charities through four local federations. Donation incentives include weekly drawings and an invitation to breakfast with President Gaber in January 2018. Will you give to align your passion with a purpose?



www.utoledo.edu/utc3



Thanksgiving Dinner

Host International Students for Thanksgiving!

Thursday, November 23, 2017

Share in a cross cultural experience with international students as you celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday!

If you would like to take part in this opportunity, please fill out the request form located on the CISP website

<http://www.utoledo.edu/cisp/thanksgiving>

Please apply no later than November 17th

Please email utexplorers@utoledo.edu for questions



CAUSE A SCENE FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Enjoy yourself and support our cause at a special fundraising event for:

Organization Name: UT Professional Staff Association Scholarship Fund

Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Time: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Store: 3332 W Central Ave.

Toledo, OH

Fundraiser A

Guest MUST present this flyer to the cashier before paying. Blaze Pizza will donate 20% of proceeds from your meal back to our organization.



FAST-FIRE'D.

Donation amount excludes proceeds from tax and gift card purchases. Valid for dine-in, take-out only. Not valid for online orders. Alcoholic beverages excluded. Event proceeds void if flyers are distributed in or near the restaurant. Manager, please attach this flyer to the guest check.