

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS
Annual Report



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10 EASY
TIPS FOR
A SUCCESSFUL
TRIP

MESSAGE FROM KAYE PATTEN WALLACE, PH.D. SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



DEAR FELLOW ROCKETS:

If challenges are the seeds that create personal growth, everyone who works in the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) is on the way to greatness! Again and again, in ways big and small, our DSA staff rises to the challenges that face our University as we adjust to a changing world, with new expectations from our students and new realities for higher education.

The shared traits that help make DSA especially strong are habits of collaboration and flexibility. Both are necessary in helping create real solutions that will carry UT into its next decade of success.

To make the most of the resources within this large division, DSA relies on working collaborations between offices and departments within our group, and those across the University. It's a strategy that allows us to multiply our own strengths — and those of our UT colleagues — many times over.

The Not On My Watch campus student safety initiative, highlighted in this report, is just one very successful example of DSA's active collaborations. It combines the strengths of DSA, the Anti-Bullying Taskforce, Student Government and The University of Toledo Police Department. Since Not On My Watch was able to call on so many areas of expertise, the program can now offer education and training in personal safety and campus safety that our students can carry throughout their entire academic journey — and long beyond!

For the many DSA professionals working face-to-face with UT's ever-changing student population, staying flexible has become second nature! Whether anticipating coming challenges or successfully remediating an issue of the moment, the professionals within the Division of Student Affairs pull together to ensure that our students have the safest, most successful and memorable student experience here at The University of Toledo.

As we celebrate our recent successes and look to the next year, we salute our University, our mission and the students we all serve.

Go Rockets!

The University of Toledo Division of Student Affairs can truthfully claim an eventful year. For the past 12 months, the devil — and the delight — has been in the details. To successfully manage everything from an extensive divisional reorganization to a full calendar of traditions and new initiatives, the many departments, offices and programs that make up Student Affairs continue to rely on our greatest strength: a shared passion for student service.



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR PAST 12 MONTHS

Events

STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY

This year's annual event — one that grows every year — took advantage of a perfect spring day to unite students, staff and UT senior leadership. As the division's way of saying "Thank You!" to our students, this event also provides a healthy break before final exams, and gives everyone a taste of the summer to come.



DSA RETREAT

Students aren't the only ones who need to decompress occasionally; the annual Student Affairs Leadership Team Retreat in July combined fun and learning in a perfect summertime setting: Maumee Bay State Park. A theme of Collaboration tied together the day's activities, which ranged from team-building exercises to divisional updates and motivational speakers. During the break for lunch, participants had a chance to enjoy the park's lakeside walkways. A follow-up survey of participants showed that nearly all came away from the experience with high levels of professional satisfaction — and felt better prepared to successfully launch a new school year.





WELCOME BACK, STUDENTS!

New and returning Rockets making their way onto UT campuses in August were greeted with smiles, information and useful giveaways that made their new semester an even more positive experience. Nearly the entire staff of Student Affairs turned out to participate as ambassadors for our University, providing everything from directions to the students' classrooms, to the correct procedure for registration, to the location of the nearest restroom. At one Rocket Launch Pad, staffers even applied basic First Aid procedures for a student who had stubbed her toe.

ROCKET HALL:

- 1 building
- 9 entrances
- 133 trained DSA volunteers
- 900 person-hours



PRESIDENT'S BBQ AND LUAU

The traditional celebration of the new semester was given a tropical twist this year with a Hawaiian luau theme that included plenty of leis, a limbo contest and a chance for students to tame the Great White Shark. Food stations included selections for vegetarians and those following faith-based diets. Again, DSA volunteers were well represented.

PRESIDENT'S TAILGATE

The first 2013 home Rockets football game — in which the Midnight Blue and Gold shut down Eastern Washington — saw plenty of vigorous tailgating, but the President's Tailgate demonstrated how much fun can be had *sans* alcohol. Food, face-painting and lots of UT spirit kept the party jumping until game time.





RAINN DAY

RAINN Day, a national event sponsored at UT by our division, helped raise awareness and educate students about sexual violence on college campuses. Instituted by the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, the nation's largest anti-violence organization, RAINN Day is held annually on campuses across the country to empower college students in educating their peers. Here at UT, residence halls and student

organizations embellished donated umbrellas with messages against violence; I-House was voted as having the most effective entry. The event also included a chance to visit the Clothesline Project, in which women affected by violence create shirts to be displayed as part of their healing process.



HOMECOMING

One of the most venerable of UT traditions, Homecoming turned 90 this year — but this premiere event seems to look younger every go-round. A week of activities led up to the Rockets vs. W. Michigan game (Toledo triumphed 47-20). Rainy conditions for Saturday's parade didn't quench the enthusiasm of the multitude UT supporters attending, and DSA's decorated truck made a splash (in every puddle).

Innovations

COMMUTER SERVICES

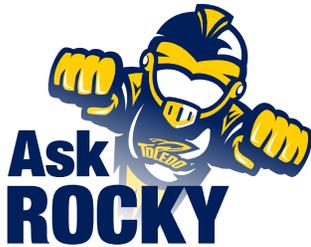
This year, DSA made a special commitment to enhance our commuter students' connection to their University. To strengthen that essential link between students and UT, the Office of Commuter Student and Off-Campus Services, located in Student Union 3504, sponsors on- and off-campus events and programs especially for commuter students. The office also uses Commuter Ambassador mentorships to encourage conversations and socializing between students who live off-campus. Thanks to a renovated Commuter Lounge, students have a comfortable place to eat lunch, study, charge their electronics, connect with other commuters or take a break between classes. For commuter students who live in rental properties, the office has the most up-to-date listings of on- and off-campus rental properties, restaurants and popular student hangouts — plus useful tips on the rental process.





SUCCESS COACHES

One of the biggest innovations this year for enhancing the student experience came in the form of UT's Success Coaches, trained professionals who help students navigate their way to graduation. The program, an initiative of the UT "Imagine 2017" Strategic Plan, matches new and transfer students with a Success Coach who acts as a personal resource from admission through graduation. Success Coaches are the single point of contact to assist students with any question, problem or concern they have related to their UT experience. To help keep members of Rocket Nation on track academically, coaches remind students about upcoming academic deadlines and keep them connected with resources like tutoring, the Writing Center and the Math Lab. Success Coaches have been assigned to students through four of the University's five portal colleges — YouCollege, Adult and Lifelong Learning, Jesup Scott Honors and UTXnet World Campus. However, students with coaches are enrolled in colleges throughout the University in every major. As partners in the effort to launch our students into a high-achieving future, Success Coaches work closely with academic advisers, and with staff in services areas like Rocket Solution Central and the Treasurer's Office to help students get the information they need to succeed.



ASK ROCKY

Given the many opportunities UT Rockets have for maximizing their student experience, is there a way they can see everything that's on the menu? Yes: They can Ask Rocky! Launched in fall semester, Ask Rocky is a destination students can reach quickly via instant messaging, phone, email or even in person. When students have questions about some aspect of their academic journey, Ask Rocky delivers quick answers, ideas and suggestions. If more extensive information is needed, follow-up comes through Success Coaches, academic advisers, student services staff and other UT professionals. By utilizing the power of UT's popular mascot, Ask Rocky helps guide students who may be reluctant to reach out in other ways, and connect them with the information and resources they need. Visit Ask Rocky at utoledo.edu/askrocky and see how its emphasis on "Putting U in UT" further empowers our students.

NOT ON MY WATCH

The Not On My Watch initiative is a student-centered partnership between the Division of Student Affairs, the Anti-Bullying Task Force and The University of Toledo Police Department. It kicked off during Homecoming 2013, starting with a substance-free tailgate at the Student Recreation Center that combined free food and T-shirts with educational materials about the University Counseling Center and other safety and health resources. That launch was followed by weeks of programs and activities showing students how to become active participants in their own safety, and setting the stage for ongoing safety education and training. One of the most popular features of Not On My Watch has been the T-shirt exchange that replaces unauthorized shirts that promote irresponsible alcohol use with ones reading "See You In Class — Getting My Degree."



STUDENT UNION RENOVATIONS

First came the planning, then the plastering — considerably later, the picture-taking. But it was worth the wait. To help create a Student Union that's even more inviting, accessible and attractive, DSA took the lead in initiating physical changes that resulted in an enlarged and enhanced Commuter Student Lounge, a headquarters for the newly launched Ask Rocky service, a Student Resource Room for UT's many student organizations, a new home for the Office of Student Involvement, and an updated Rocket Conference Room with more seating and the latest technological enhancements.

Cool Stuff



RL MAGAZINE

It's a recruitment tool — a retention strategy — a celebration of our students and what they can achieve here at The University of Toledo. RL (Real Life/Real Learning) Magazine was published in the fall by DSA and distributed campus-wide to students, offices in Student Affairs and various colleges, as well as to senior administrators. Check it out if you haven't done so: issuu.com/rlmagazine



NEW DSA SHIRTS

Here's some fashionable gear with a purpose: the newly redesigned DSA shirts that were unveiled and distributed at the September Student Affairs Leadership Team meeting. Wearing them when you work at DSA events helps create a brand of quality for the division and sends a visual message that Student Affairs is here for our students. Besides that, they're comfortable, polished and match everything Blue and Gold! Check them out in this DSA group shot!



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