
Working to Support and Enhance the Academic Journey

The UT Learning Collaborative (UTLC) vision and mission statements were shared at the UTLC meeting held on November 25:

UTLC Vision

In order to meet the needs of our citizenry and community, The University of Toledo Learning Collaborative (UTLC) will cultivate the social, civic, ethical and academic growth of all University of Toledo students.

UTLC Mission

The mission of The University of Toledo Learning Collaborative (UTLC) is to lead in the design and delivery of innovative and effective programs and support services for student access, retention and success. As a gateway and a catalyst for lifelong learning, The University of Toledo Learning Collaborative promotes students' self discovery and the achievement of their academic goals. We engage a diverse student population in a holistic and humanistic manner through collegial and community partnerships

NEWS & EVENTS

7,795 Tutoring Sessions

As of December 11, the Learning Enhancement Center has provided 7,795 tutoring sessions for 1,567 UT students during Fall semester. Also this semester, 32 Supplemental Instruction Leaders facilitated 96 study sessions each week for students enrolled in high-risk, pre-professional courses.

Eighth Annual Olympiad breaks attendance records

The 2008 Learning Enhancement Center Olympiad was wildly successful! This year's attendance was close to 4,800 attendees, almost doubled from last year! Students will be better prepared for the challenges of college life because of their participation in the 35 Olympiad workshops. The Olympiad is a four-day series of fun, interactive and informative learning experiences addressing academic and personal issues that college students face.

Presentations by the UTLC team included:

- Jennifer Rockwood: "Why Am I so Stressed"; "My Professor Is an Alien" and "Thinking on Your Feet."
- John Fedor: "Just the Facts Ma'am: Helping with Note Taking" and "College Survival 101"
- Linda Gubbe: "50 Minutes to a Better Memory"
- Dr. Sharon Barnes: "Education NOT Indoctrination: The Importance of Critical Thinking"
- Pam Rehkopf and LEC staff: "Team Tangle"
- Susan Andrews: "Problems and Concerns? Who Are You Going to Call?" and "Soar with Your Strengths"
- Angela Paprocki: "Get Involved without Getting Overwhelmed: A Session on Time Management"
- LEC Staff: "Discover Online Tutoring"

Salvaging Your Semester

“Salvaging Your Semester” was hosted by the Learning Enhancement Center after mid-term grades and created to help students realize that it was not too late to turn their semester around. “Salvaging Your Semester” was a series of programs, specifically geared to address academic challenges and offered to students in topics such as: Taking Effective Notes, Managing Your Time, Test Taking Strategies, Using Math Tools, Reading a Textbook, Researching on the Internet, Managing Stress, Study Strategies Panel, and Building Motivation. A series of research and reference workshops were also held to provide individual help with research papers and projects. Also, special math tutoring sessions were held.

What Faculty Members Need to Know About Retention

FYE and the UT Learning Collaborative hosted “What Faculty Members Need to Know about Retention,” a webinar for faculty and advisers with moderator Jerry Pattengale. Over 75 UT faculty and staff attended the November event. Visit the following link for a PDF of the PowerPoint:

<http://www.magnapubs.com/images/081120MOS.pdf>.

Customized Career Coaching Pilot Program

Starting Spring Semester, 2009, Career Services is offering a customized career coaching pilot program for 20 students who will graduate in May, 2009. The program has been filled by students representing all majors. These students will meet with Career Services staff for one-on-one coaching on resume writing, interview skills, exclusive employer networking opportunities and assistance in helping them prepare for their job hunt.

The Mentoring Collaborative Celebration

On December 4, The Mentoring Collaborative hosted a reception celebrating their second year. During the program, they honored 28 returning mentees and 27 mentors. In addition, they welcomed 13 new mentees and 13 new mentors.

Returning to Learning

University College Degree Programs hosted “Returning to Learning,” an inspirational and informative bachelor’s degree completion seminar on Thursday, November 20 at Holland Branch Library. Presenter Melissa Gleckler discussed how individuals can increase their earning power by increasing their learning power!

QUEST High School Classroom Presentations

UTLC Program Manager for recruitment, Melissa Gleckler visited 17 high schools, made 69 presentations and collected over 600 student inquiries over the fall semester. Her QUEST for Success high school classroom presentation focuses on helping students find direction and begin the career exploration process. During the presentation, students participate in several interactive activities that help them identify their individual strengths and interests. (More presentations are scheduled for Spring 2009.)

November orientation programs are a success

The show rate of the November programs was a marked increased over the 2007 November orientation programs as a result of two new initiatives - phone confirmations and e-mail confirmations. Additional optional guest and student program offerings were incorporated into the Rocket Transition program (for transfer students) schedule including (1) optional tours of academic and student service offices; (2) a Rocket-to-Rocket Transfer Q&A session where new transfer students could connect with transfer orientation leaders; (3) a bookstore presentations; (4) and a new, optional Money Matters 2 session (via Rocket Solution Central).

FYI is now under FYE

FYI (First Year Instruction) is now housed in FYE under the leadership of Jennifer Rockwood. FYE staff is working on a newsletter, professional development, and integrating text.

L. Scott Lissner, ADA Coordinator, Visits Office of Accessibility

The Office of Accessibility recently hosted L. Scott Lissner, ADA Coordinator from The Ohio State University, who did a program evaluation on our services. A full report is expected within the next few weeks.

Main Campus Test Center Moves to the Field House

Testing Services has moved to the new Field House testing site. It house 53 new computer stations.

Individualized Degree Program Proposal Workshops

In November, two workshops were held for University College Degree Program (UCDP) students on how to finalize their programs of study for faculty review and write their required program statement. A total of 21 students attended. Fifty-one programs were reviewed by the Faculty Review Committee this past week, which is the largest number of programs submitted for a review to date. In addition, e-mail reminders were sent to students on when program proposals would be reviewed.

Student Issues Resource Group

With its membership being a microcosm of The University of Toledo, the Student Issues Resource Group (SIRG) meets monthly and works to improve student-centeredness at UT. If you are aware of a specific policy, procedure, or practice that is problematic to students or would like a forthcoming policy, procedure, or practice reviewed for its student-friendliness, feel free to contact Susan Andrews, chair, at 419.530.2571 to have the item added to SIRG's agenda. Suggestions for improving student life at UT are always welcomed.

NEW WAYS OF COMMUNICATING

New Orientation Web Site and Email Address

The Office of New Student Orientation Programs has a new, updated, centralized website: www.utoledo.edu/orientation as well as a new, streamlined "New Student Tab" on the myUT Portal for new students. A new e-mail address has also been created for the office: NewStudentOrientation@utoledo.edu (the name appears as Office of New Student Orientation Programs in the Outlook address book).

Family Connections Newsletter and website

First Year Experience, in collaboration with Student Affairs, sent *Family Connections* e-mail to parents of UT students. *Family Connections* electronic newsletter will be developed into a parent website. The effort is working to build stronger connections with parents. The first email was sent right before Thanksgiving break, letting parents know how their child may be growing and changing while away at college - becoming more independent. If you have news or ideas you think a parent would value, send to Jennifer Rockwood at jennifer.rockwood@utoledo.edu.

IN THE WORKS

UC 1120 - Career and Self-Evaluation

Career Services is developing the curriculum for the UC 1120 Career Exploration course in collaboration with the QUEST program. The revised curriculum will be provided to faculty for the spring semester.

uncUT Films

The *uncUT Films* will be shown on the UT TV website and will be seen on the TVs around campus in various buildings. The *uncUT* FYE Films are 3-5 minute films created by first-year students, where they document their first semester experience.

A New Orientation Program is in the Works!

UT Post-Secondary Enrollment Option Program students will soon have a new, tailored orientation program geared to meet their needs. The first program will be offered in May 2009. The program will have a brand new name, yet to be determined, to distinguish it from the current Rocket Launch program!

ADA Amendments Act

ADA Amendments Act of 2008 will go into effect January 1, 2009. The next issue of the *UTLC News* will feature changes to the law.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS and ALUMS

Virginian Distance Learning Military Student Graduates

Distance learning student Ethan Crider will be graduating this December from University College Degree Programs with a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies. He's stationed aboard the U.S.S. *George H. W. Bush* (CVN-77) which will be commissioned January, 2009 in Virginia. He is a United States Navy Petty Officer First Class. He received the military distance learning scholarship.

University College Degree Program Student Will Attend U.S. Presidential Inauguration

University College student Hazel Templeton was nominated by Golden Key National Honor Society to attend the U.S. Presidential Inauguration in January. She is in the top 15% of Golden Key Scholars in the United States. She raised \$4,000 to make the trip through a letter writing campaign. Family and friends rallied with donations. She graduates this December and plans to go on to graduate school.

University College Degree Program Alumna Receives Grant to Benefit Planned Parenthood of NWO

Tycie Johnson, a UCDP graduate in December, 2007, completed an internship position with Planned Parenthood of NWO during her last semester at UT. She was then hired on a full-time basis as the Coordinator of AIDS Outreach and Prevention. She applied for and was awarded the largest grant ever received by Planned Parenthood of NWO.

Student Orientation Leaders Hired

A new crew of student orientation leaders was hired in October for the Fall 2008 orientation programs. The thirty highly motivated and professional leaders are representative of the UT student body and include non-traditional and transfer leaders.

Service Learning Students Work Over 600 Service Hours

The 26 students enrolled in the First Year Experience Fellowship through the Office of Service Learning have racked up over 600 hours of service within the past three months! Read on to learn about their service learning activities:

- This group of dedicated freshmen students help mentor and tutor students at Woodward High School in math, science and English studies. Although most of the students were initially surprised by this inner city high school, they are slowly making a difference with the students and staff through their service hours.
- Students in this program also spend time with the residents of Madonna Homes, a 196-unit, low-income housing project for the elderly and the disabled. In November, the students have done various crafts with the residents, as well as making no-bake cookies and playing BINGO. UT students also hosted an ice cream social for the residents. During December, one of the Madonna Homes residents taught the UT students a little about cooking for the holidays. The students also helped residents decorate their doors for the holiday season.
- M3C Fellowship: Twelve students enrolled in the program have been doing service at various locations. Ronald McDonald House, Josina Lott and Catherine Eberly Center are just a few of the places these students volunteer. In return for their efforts, if 300 hours are completed over the course of a year, a \$1,000 educational award is given to the student.
- Great Cities Great Service Grant: Three service learning courses each semester pair with classes at Woodward High School. The pairings then work together on a project to benefit both the UT students as well as the high schoolers. Spring semester's classes will be working on a joint newsletter and working on their Spanish skills among other things, like learning about college life.
- Make-A-Difference Day is the biggest event in volunteer community service, and Ohio has been the national leader since the beginning. Last year alone, over 40,000 volunteers took part in over 1,000 service projects across the state. This year, Josina Lott teamed up with the Office of Service Learning to hold a dance-a-thon on October 25th to honor Make A Difference Day. Many UT students came dressed for Halloween to match the residents involved.

Six Honor Students Receive the Sullivan Fellowship Honors Awards

Sullivan Fellowship Awards may be used for research, unpaid internships, and scholarly pursuits. Fellowships are awarded to members of the University Honors Program who have a GPA of 3.2 and above and are currently enrolled.

Sullivan Fellowships – Spring/Summer 2009

Jennifer Teeple received \$1,000

Research Topic in Environmental Science: “Defense/Coastal Estuarine Research Project”

Linda Amrou received \$1,500

Internship: “The Washington Center”

Amanda Gray received \$2,000

Research Topic in Biological Sciences: “Ethyl-Mercury Exposure in Zebrafish Embryos: An Analysis of Neural Development and Behavior”

Michele Phillips received \$2,000

Topic in Biological Sciences: “IL-13 Mediated Regulation of Inflammatory Autoimmune Disease”

Abdulmajed Dakkak received \$2,000

Research Topic in Computer Science: “Machine Learning, Visualization, and Parallel Computing on the Technology Opportunity Program Data Set”

Jessica Jennings received \$1,000

Internship in Pharmacology: “Practicum Experience”

Dynamic Honors Student Jeffrey Kodysh is Working to Revitalize UT's Zeta Xi chapter of GTU

Jeffrey Kodysh is working with Dr. Nemeth on revitalizing UT's *Zeta Xi* chapter of *Gamma Theta Upsilon* (GTU), the international geographic honor society. UT's chapter of GTU has been inactive over the past few years, and they want to bring a UT chapter back into an active status by Spring semester. GTU is an organization for geography majors, who will be able to compete for GTU scholarships, network with other geography majors across the country, and participate in extra-curricular activities like field trips and conferences. Visit <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/index.html> for more information on GTU. Kodysh and Dr. Nemeth are also taking the lead to bring back *The Council Oak*, geography departmental newsletter. It was last published in the early 1990's.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS:

Tom Barden has been appointed by Governor Strickland to the Board of the Ohioana Library. Their fall gale and fundraiser was featured in *OHIO Magazine* complete with a picture of Dr. Barden with the director and board president.



University College Degree Programs Award Winning Staff

Three staff members in University College Degree Programs received awards during the 2007-2008 Academic Year. Mona Dokurno was honored with the Outstanding Staff award. Beth Gerasimiak was the monthly recipient of the Students First award for January, 2008. Kim Pollauf received the Outstanding Adviser award. Marie Johnson-Ham is a past recipient of the Outstanding Adviser award.

Advisers Attend Annual NACADA Conference

In October, University College Degree Programs advisers Marie Johnson-Ham, Kim Pollauf and Beth Gerasimiak attended the National Academic Advising Conference in Chicago. Advisers Kathy Helmick, Jennifer McDowell Tharp, Kathleen Jensen and Rose Ackerman from the Gateway Programs also attended.

Orientation Staff Attends National Orientation Directors Association Annual Conference

Julie Fischer-Kinney and Whitney Walker attended the 2008 National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) Annual Conference from October 31 - November 3, 2008 in Boston. They obtained valuable information from colleagues across the country on best practices, assessment of orientation programs, and much more. They look forward to implementing some of those great ideas and best practices!

Jennifer Rockwood Presented FYE Success Stories at Conferences

- AAC&U Discovering, Integrating and Applying Knowledge, April 10-12, 2008, Austin, Texas, *Presentation: University of Toledo's FYE Film Festival*
- AAC&U Diversity, Learning and Inclusive Excellence, October 16-18, 2008, Long Beach, CA, *Presentation: Homeroom Citizenship FYI and Service Learning*
- National Resource Center 15th National Conference on Students in Transition, November 8-10, 2008, Columbia, South Carolina, *Presentation: Homeroom Citizenship, FYI and Service Learning*

Laura Johnson will Present at the 2009 VizThink North American Conference

Laura Johnson, learning specialist at the Rocket Academic Center, has been invited to present at the 2009 VizThink North American Conference on Visual Thinking and Learning, in San Jose, CA this February. An article describing her work with the Rocket student-athletes was published earlier this year by Brandon-Hall Research in their Visualization in Learning Report, which showcased 13 other visual teaching and learning strategists from all over the world. Also in November, Laura was featured in a Vizthink.com podcast focused on innovations in visual learning.



To submit information to the UTLC News send details to cathy.zimmer@utoledo.edu