Meet our Rocket-Ex Instructors

Johanna Black
Johanna is a Zumba, Turbo Kick, and Ultimate Abs instructor here at the Rec. She started working at the Rec in April of 2013, and was named the Wellness Center’s “Employee of the Year” for the 2013-2014 school year. Johanna is a senior and will graduate with a B.A. in Psychology in May 2015. In August 2015, she will begin the Occupational Therapy Doctoral (OTD) program here at UT. Johanna was born and raised here in Toledo and has been a figure skater since she was 5 years old.

Marisa Tomei
Marisa is a PiYo, 20/20/20 and Ultimate ABs instructor here at the Rec (her favorite place to work.) She is very passionate about health and fitness and loves to try out as many new workouts as possible in and outside her classes. Her major is Exercise Science and will be graduating in the spring and then heading to Physical Therapy School here at UT. Her hobbies include working out (duhh), cooking, hiking and biking, being involved on campus and spending time with family and friends. She hopes to share her passions with each and every one of you.

Abbey Corcoran
I am a spin instructor at the University of Toledo Rec Center. I started teaching spin classes in the summer of 2014. I am a first year Doctor of Physical Therapy student and will be graduating in Spring 2017. My passions include all outdoor activities such as hiking, rock climbing, and camping. I enjoy having an active lifestyle and strive to help people find an exercise that works for them!

Alex Petrei
Bio: I am a Rocket Cycle instructor at the Rec. I started as a sub in the 2014 Fall Semester and January 2015 is my first time working for the Rec. I graduated in December 2012 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and work at Libbey Inc. full time. I am currently taking pre-requisites classes for and applying to the MBA program at UT. I am originally from Willowick, a city 20 minutes east of Cleveland so I am an avid Cleveland sports fan.

Leanne Barson
Leanne is a Turbo Kick and Core 15 instructor here at the Rec. She first began working at the Rec in May of 2013. You can find her almost anywhere in the Rec, she currently works as a Building Manager, Floor Supervisor, Group-Fitness Instructor and Undergraduate Assistant for Summer Camp. Leanne is a junior and will graduate in May of 2016 with her Bachelor’s of Education in Health Education, as well as a minor Counseling. In her free time, Leanne enjoys camping, making music, crafting and being silly. Leanne’s goal in life is to make a positive impact on the lives of the people around her.
Maria Jose Torres-Palsa

I am a doctor of physical therapist since 2011 and a PhD in Exercise Science student. I have been working in the Rec since the Spring of 2009 and teaching Zumba since 2010. I have a 5 month old baby boy that makes my days a blast! I am from Ecuador but have been living in the USA since 2004.

Kaitlin McConocha

I am an Early Childhood Education Major graduating Spring of 2016. I am licensed to teach Zumba, Aqua Zumba, and Yoga. I first fell in love with Zumba here at the University of Toledo Recreation Center as a student. I later got licensed to teach it and have been for about 2 years. I love to share my passion for health and fitness with others around me.

Karli Sasscer

My name is Karli Sasscer, I am a sophomore at the University of Toledo studying exercise science. I instruct Zumba, Aqua Zumba, and Drums Alive. Currently I’m instructing 15 group exercise classes a week! I graduated from the Toledo School for the Arts as a Dance Major and am currently a Hip Hop dance teacher. Still debating on taking one of my classes? We've all been where you are, wondering and debating on whether to get to a class. The first step is always the hardest! Just remember: Fitness isn't about being perfect. It's about getting healthy, and having FUN doing it! Every class is a party, you don’t even have to know how to dance just move your body and follow my lead. I've got some pretty amazing people in class, and I hope to see YOU soon!

Melissa Gregory

Melissa Gregory is an Associate Professor of English with a love of yoga. In addition to her weekly yoga class at the Rec-Fit, she sometimes teaches a special section of Reading Poetry (ENGL 2730) called Poetry of the Body that integrates yoga with literature. She enjoys the diversity of her UT yoga students, who are students, staff, and faculty who come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and ages. Her classes emphasize a safe and thoughtful approach to yoga that supports an overall healthy lifestyle.

Olivia Krupp

Olivia Krupp is a sophomore Health Care Administration major with a Pre-Occupational Therapy concentration. She has been teaching RocketCycle since the summer of 2014. In September, she was the Wellness Center's Employee of the Month. Olivia also works at the UT Rec Center as a Floor Supervisor.
Corissa Piatka

I am currently a first year pharmacy student at the University of Toledo and will graduate with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.) in May 2018. I have always enjoyed athletics as I was a soccer player for 10 years. I started to develop my interest in personal fitness about 5 years ago. When I'm not studying, I enjoy cycling, running, yoga and pilates. I became a certified Spinning instructor in July 2013, and I like closely tailoring my cycling classes to the music to make them more energetic and fun!

Annalise Worsdall

My name is Annalise and I am currently in my final year of the Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program. I am certified in personal training, TRX and Piyo, here at the UT student recreation center. I have been training individuals for 4.5 years. My favorite styles of training deals with circuits, intervals, free weights and TRX. I tend to train individuals who either want to lose weight and/or tone. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask if you see me around the rec!