



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE INSIDER

THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Message from the Interim Vice Provost and Dean



Welcome to UTSA's Fall 2017 semester. Whether you are an in-coming freshman, transfer student, or continuing your academic career, we are glad to have you on campus.

After the slower pace of summer, the beginning of the fall semester can often be hectic and overwhelming. It is important to stay aware of important [dates and deadlines](#), especially when it comes to adding and/or dropping courses. Many offices, including advising centers and academic departments, are committed to helping students as they solidify their schedule for the semester. The academic success of the students at UTSA

is a priority of the faculty and staff.

The University College is focused on helping you achieve academic excellence. The University College is home to [Testing Services](#), the [Tomas Rivera Center](#) (tutoring and other support services), the [University Health Professions Office](#), the [Writing Program](#) (including the Writing Center), the [Multidisciplinary Studies Program](#) (MDST), the [Institute for Law and Public Affairs](#) (ILPA), the [Office of Scholar Development and Post-Graduate Advising](#), and the Core Curriculum.

We are excited to begin the new fall semester, and wish every student academic success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heather Shipley

In this issue:

- Message from the Interim Vice Provost and Dean
- TRC SI Leader Raises Homelessness and Hunger Awareness
- The TRC's Expert Learner and Foundations of Success Workshops
- Six Students to Represent UTSA in Washington, D.C.
- WRC Spring 2017 Scholarship Winners and Professors

TRC SI Leader Raises Homelessness and Hunger Awareness

During the second semester of her freshman year, the service-minded Shruti Sinkar started the UTSA Hunger and Homelessness Movement, an initiative that she conceptualized after a visit to a battered women's shelter.

The group hosts food drives and volunteers with local organizations. To date, it has provided more than 1,000 service hours and about \$500 to local non-profits, and it has donated hundreds of clothing items to a refugee center in San Antonio.

"It makes me extremely happy to see how empowered these volunteers at UTSA are and how dedicated to the cause they are," said Sinkar.

As president and founder of the UTSA Hunger and Homeless Movement, Sinkar's goal is to work with city leaders to provide support to individuals who are homeless and searching for employment opportunities. To support students in need on campus, she is also focused on the success of the Roadrunner Pantry, which opened last March. The pantry supports student success by providing food and other essentials to UTSA students free of charge.

Sinkar is a member of the UTSA Ambassadors, a group that provides thousands of service hours to the UTSA community each year. She also tutors students who need help with biology and organic chemistry in the Tomás Rivera Center on the Main Campus.

"I help freshmen get adjusted and make sure they feel at home at UTSA," said Sinkar. "I know the struggles of moving to a new place and not knowing anyone firsthand."

With a positive attitude, Sinkar balances her volunteer work and academically rigorous course load. She credits her UTSA advisors and mentors, including Dr. Ann Eisenberg, for encouraging her to pursue her dreams. She also credits the Honors College for providing her with smaller classes and seminars that have allowed her to work closely with top-tier faculty in a multitude of disciplines.

Building on her track record of success, she advises new students, "Set goals for yourself and believe in them. Challenge yourself every day and you'll learn something new. UTSA has great resources to help you succeed and accomplish your dreams."



Honors Student and Supplemental Instruction Leader
Shruti Sinkar

* Information taken and adapted from the *UTSA Meet a Roadrunner* article by Kara Soria. Click [here](#) for the full article.

The TRC's Expert Learner and Foundation of Success Workshops

At the Tomás Rivera Center, the Academic Success Coaching program provides services for students to learn the skills necessary to overcome challenges they face in the college classroom such as time management, goal-setting, overcoming procrastination, test preparation, and much more. The program's full-time professional staff members offer these strategies to students through group workshops as well as one-on-one academic coaching appointments.

This fall, we are happy to offer two workshop series to undergraduate students. Our Expert Learner Series is designed to assist undergraduates in sharpening their research and writing skills, while our Foundations for Success Series aims to help students improve their fundamental study skills.

Students who make an appointment with an academic coach will receive personalized guidance on how to overcome the academic challenges they are facing. During the initial session, a coach identifies a student's academic strengths and weaknesses and devises a success plan based on their preferred learning method. Subsequent appointments allow the coach and student to work together to assess their progress throughout the semester. As coaches, our goal is to help students be as successful as possible at UTSA by providing them with the tools to become efficient and effective self-regulated learners.

Information about the Expert Learner and Foundations for Success workshops is available at www.utsa.edu/trcss. Registration for the Foundations for Success Series is required and can be found on the website. No registration is required for attendees of the Expert Learner Series. To schedule an appointment with an academic coach, call (210) 458-4694 or come to MS 1.02.02. The Tomás Rivera Center is open Monday-Thursday from 8am-6pm and Fridays from 8am-5pm. To make an appointment with an academic coach at the Downtown Campus, call (210) 458-2823, or come by DB 2.114.



Six Students to Represent UTSA in Washington, D.C.

The [UC Office of Scholar Development](#) is pleased to announce that six students will be representing UTSA in Washington, D.C., as participants in the University of Texas System Bill Archer Fellowship Program in fall 2017.

- Psychology major Brianna Diaz will be interning with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.
- Political science major Madison Chilton will be working in the Office of Senator Nancy Pelosi.
- Communication and sociology major Sanah Jivani will be interning with the National Network to End Domestic Violence.
- Philosophy major Alejandra de Maar will intern with the Environmental Law Institute.

They will be joined in Washington, D.C., by biology major Bharath Ram and criminal justice major Sara Attia who are both working to finalize their internship placement.

Spring 2017 Scholarship Winners and Professors

Congratulations to the following Spring 2017 Writing Program scholarship winners and their professors!

WRC 1013

- \$2000 Aashish Dhammani, "Escape from Imprisonment." Professor: Darren Meritz
- \$2000 Roshen Bagobe, "At the Edge of an Outlaw's Hope": Professor: Darren Meritz

WRC 1023

- \$2000 Lindsey Raba. "The Benefits and Potential Dangers of Online Health Tools," Professor: Robin English-Bircher
- \$1000 Emily Roth Ratcliffe, "GMO Technology: Why it Should No Longer Be Used in America"

Writing across the Curriculum

- \$2500, Sarah Marchan, "The Secret Behind the Successful Ad," Professor: Gail Pizzola, ENG 3303
- \$2500, Caitlin Capps Dodwell "From Perception to Action: A Defense of Catherine Morland's Coming of Age in Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*," Professor: Karen Dodwell, ENG 4023



The Graduate School and Research Building

Helpful Numbers

Advising

- Arts & Humanities
210-458-6513
- Business Studies
210-458-4562
- Downtown
210-458-2550
- Engineering
210-458-5525
- Honors
210-458-4106
- Interdisciplinary Education
210-458-4424
- Life & Health Sciences
210-458-4045
- Mathematical & Physical Sciences
210-458-6073
- Social Sciences
210-458-4900
- Student Placement
210-458-5170

Air Force ROTC

210-458-4624

Army ROTC

210-458-4011

First-Year Experience

210-458-7490

University Health Professions Office

210-458-5185

Institute for Law and Public Affairs

210-458-2990

Multidisciplinary Studies Program

210-458-6877

Office of Scholar Development and Post-Graduate Advising

210-458-6182

Testing Services

210-458-4125

Tomas Rivera Center

210-458-4694

University College

210-458-5191

Writing Program

210-458-5363

Fall Academic Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 20	21	22 - Fall Classes Begin	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 - ASAP Late Registration Ends	31	September 1	2 - UTSA vs Univ. of Houston
3	4 - Labor Day	5	6	7 - Census Date	8	9 - UTSA vs Baylor (Waco)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 - UTSA vs Southern University
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 - UTSA vs Texas State (San Marcos)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
October 1	2	3	4	5	6	7 - UTSA vs Southern Mississippi