



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE INSIDER

THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Message from the Vice Provost and Dean

Happy New Year! And welcome to the Spring 2017 semester at UTSA, as well as another issue of the University College Insider: The Office of the Vice Provost and University College Newsletter.

As a university, we are coming off of an exciting Fall semester, and are eager to carry that energy into the new year. With the Spring 2017 semester, students can look forward to a stimulating and challenging set of classes together with an exciting season of UTSA basketball, Spring Break in March, and of course, Fiesta. For a number of you, the end of the spring semester will bring a long anticipated graduation, while most of you will simply look into taking summer courses, or begin shaping your schedule for the Fall. [Testing Services](#) is a great resource for students who may be able to test out of certain classes, for the fraction of the cost of a college course. Earning credit by examination can help students stay on track toward a timely graduation and hopefully finish in four years.

The University College's primary focus is on all first-time in college students, all students with undecided majors, and MDST majors. The office is home to Testing Services, the Tomás Rivera Center, 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), and the Core Curriculum.

We hope that every roadrunner in the University College has a successful spring semester, whether it is their last one, or they still have a few more to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lawrence R. Williams
Vice Provost and Dean

Academic Success Coaching

TRC Academic Success Coaching provides services intended to help all students become productive, independent learners. One-on-one appointments with a professional Academic Success Coach are available at no additional cost to the student. During these meetings, students are able to connect and build a relationship with the same Academic Success Coach for each visit. Working together, the student learns to overcome academic challenges and concerns such as time management and organization, note-taking, reading strategies, critical thinking, test anxiety, test preparation, and more. Academic Success Coaching is available at the Main and Downtown campuses. Students must call (210) 458-4694 to schedule an appointment.

For the student who prefers learning in a group setting, the 2017 Spring Expert Learner Workshop Series is another service offered. Each semester, topics change to address common challenges students experience. For the spring semester series, undergraduate academic writing is the central focus aimed at providing students with the skills necessary to become effective researchers. The workshops are located at Main Campus (UC 2.01.26- Pecan Room) and the Downtown Campus (DB 2.114- TRC) from 12-12:50pm.



- January 25th - Getting Your Research Started
- February 8th- Graduate Writing as an Undergraduate
- February 22nd- Finding & Reading Scholarly Resources
- March 8th- Writing a Literature Review
- March 29th- Presenting Your Research
- April 12th- Preparing for Final Exams

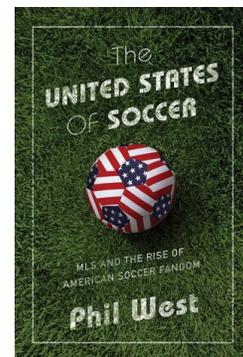
For more information, see our [website](#) at or email learn.assist@utsa.edu.

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Achievements from Writing Program Faculty

- Writing Program faculty member Todd Wright was honored as an influential teacher in the life of UTSA student Aqsa Akbar at the Honors Alliance NOVA dinner. [Honors Alliance](#) is a sponsored student organization at UTSA committed to promoting learning through scholarly and leadership programming, volunteer service, and recognition.
- Writing Program faculty member Phil West had his book published, *The United States of Soccer: MLS and the Rise of the American Soccer Fandom*. The book explores the history of Major League Soccer in the United States, as well as the superfans who continue to stick by the sport despite the country as a whole not sharing their enthusiasm.



The Roadrunner Transition Experience Helps in Student Success

Students know the excitement of coming to a new university quickly switches focus to coursework, progress to graduation, graduate school applications, or finding the right career. This is especially true for transfer students who have less time to meet these goals than traditional students. Roadrunner Transition Experience (RTE) is here to help non-traditional students, transfer students, student veterans, international students, and first-generation students have a smoother, more successful transition to UTSA. We are here to support and guide students through challenges, direct them to campus resources they need, and connect them to organizations of interest through the RTE peer mentoring program. RTE also presents workshops geared toward the future that provide tips for building a network, getting that first interview, and setting yourself apart from the rest of the crowd at work or in the classroom. Plus, RTE hosts fun, informative mixers to grow the students' UTSA community. If you are interested in joining Roadrunner Transition Experience and being paired with a peer mentor, a successful student who has overcome challenges you may face, complete the information form available at [here](#) or email pivot.rte@utsa.edu for more information. RTE will match you with a great fit!

ACE Scholars Get Into the Season of Giving

On Monday, December 6th, ACE Mentors Stephanie Ruiz and Elizabeth Barba, along with Assistant Director Leticia Longoria-Fisher, delivered toys to the HEB Plus on 1604 and Blanco for the CPS Kids of Bexar County. The ACE Scholars donated 48 toys in all, and also made one on-line donation. KENS 5 Chief Meteorologist Bill Taylor was at the HEB Plus as a host for the drop-off location.

The Access College and Excel (ACE) Scholar Program promotes academic success for ACE scholars through a variety of programs that include tutoring, mentoring, and dedicated individual academic advising. It is a special scholarship and retention program aimed at helping incoming freshmen who have graduated from specific high schools effectively transfer from high school to a four-year university.

You can visit the [Tomas Rivera Center](#) for more information about ACE and other programs.



Clockwise from top left: ACE Mentors Elizabeth Barba and Stefanie Ruiz with TRC Student Assistant and ACE Graduate Rocio Alvarado at the Downtown Campus.

Barba and Ruiz with KENS 5 Chief meteorologist Bill Taylor at the HEB drop-off location.

Barba and Ruiz come off of the elevator with the donated toys.

Considering Law School? The Institute for Law and Public Affairs can help you!

The UTSA Institute for Law and Public Affairs (ILPA) commenced in 2001 as an academic partnership between the UT School of Law and UTSA. Hundreds of students have graduated since the Institute began, and its alumni have gained admission to over 150 law schools in 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Europe.

The purpose of the ILPA is to support students interested in pursuing careers in law through:

- Prelaw advising
- Special events
- Law related internships, and
- The Summer Law School Preparation Academy (SLSPA).

The Institute's prelaw advisors help students to determine if law school is right for them, identify courses to assist in developing the logical and critical reasoning skills and writing skills necessary for success in law school, as well as understand and assist in the application process and timeline.

Throughout the year, the ILPA holds seminars and events such as the Law School Fair at UTSA (partnered with the Southwest Association of Prelaw Advisors), mock LSATs and now moot trials, seminars on Writing the Personal Statement, and presentations of law schools representatives on application requirements and other programs.

The ILPA also encourages students to apply to law related internships such as the UTSA Legislative Scholars, in which students intern in the TX Legislature when in session, earning up to 12 credit hours and a stipend of \$10,000; or the Archer Fellows Program, in which students intern in Washington, D.C., and earn up to 15 credit hours.

The UTSA Summer Law School Preparation Academy (SLSPA) was created in 2002 as a reaction to the Fifth Circuit opinion in Hopwood in 1996, which prohibited the use of affirmative action to reach racial and ethnic diversity. The SLSPA was designed to hone students' analytical, critical-reading, and writing skills; prepare them for law school and the LSAT; enhance pre-law educational opportunities for students, and increase their professional opportunities. Students completing 12 hours of SLSPA coursework –these credit hours go to the student's GPA, - receive the ILPA Certificate in Legal Reasoning.

The SLSPA is composed of two phases, each phase is 5 weeks. Students enroll in two courses in phase I after their sophomore year and two courses in phase II after their junior year, or complete both phases over one summer before their senior year. The program also supplements students' coursework with twice weekly plenary sessions featuring admission professionals to give insights of the admission process, law school professors teaching law classes akin to law school to replicate the law school environment, and panel of experts in the legal field such as judges, practicing attorneys, and academics who share experiences with prelaw students to illustrate a day in a J.D.'s work.

To apply for the 2017 SLSPA, students should submit the SLSPA application form, personal statement, resume, and 2 letters of recommendation. Deadline to apply is March 30, 2017. For more information, go to <http://www.utsa.edu/ilpa/>. To schedule an appointment with a prelaw advisor, contact us at www.utsa.edu/ilpa/, (210) 458 2990, or personally at Main Campus, M.S. 3.03.14.

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

Health Professions Office

210-458-5185

Institute for Law and Public Affairs

210-458-2990

Multidisciplinary Studies Program

210-458-6877

Testing Services

210-458-4125

Tomas Rivera Center

210-458-4694

University College

210-458-5191

Writing Program

210-458-5363

Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 1 - New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 - First Day of Classes	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 - University Closed (MLK)	17	18 - Add/Drop Date	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 - Census Date	26	27	28
29	30	31	February 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 - Last Day to Add a Class	25