

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE INSIDER



## THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

### Message from the Interim Vice Provost and Dean



Welcome Roadrunners to 2018 and UTSA's Spring 2018 semester!

I want to offer a warm welcome back to campus. And to those of you who are new to UTSA, we are pleased to have you join our diverse campus community. This semester will give you the opportunity to continue to explore how to be involved on campus, build academic skills, solidify summer plans (e.g. internships, summer courses, research experience), and meet new people.

Often the Spring semester marks the end of the academic career for many students. The Spring Commencement Ceremonies will be here before we know it, which means many Roadrunners will walk the stage to celebrate a major accomplishment. For ceremony information, be sure to check the [Commencement Webpage](#).

The University College is focused on helping you achieve academic excellence. Our college is devoted exclusively to undergraduate students and your success. We collaborate with other colleges, departments, and offices throughout the university. The University College is home to many offices such as the [Tomás Rivera Center](#) (tutoring and other support services), the [Writing Program](#) (including the Writing Center), the [University Health Professions Office](#), the [Institute for Law and Public Affairs](#) (ILPA), the [Multidisciplinary Studies Program](#) (MDST), the [Office of Scholar Development and Post-Graduate Advising](#), [Testing Services](#), and the Core Curriculum.

This is sure to be a busy and exciting Spring semester, and we wish every student academic success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heather Shipley  
Interim Vice Provost and Dean

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## Academic Success Coaching Program Offers Coaching, Seminars, and More

The Academic Success Coaching Program in the Tomás Rivera Center offers students the opportunity to develop the skills they need to overcome challenges posed in the college classroom. These skills are not content related, but include common issues such as time management, goal-setting, overcoming procrastination, test prep, and note taking. The program has full-time professional staff members who offer these strategies to students in one-on-one appointments, as well as group workshops.

When you meet with an academic coach, you will receive strategies that are personalized to the unique challenges you face academically. At the first session, your coach will identify your academic strengths and weaknesses. Then, **your academic coach** will discuss the skills necessary for you to succeed in your classes. The following appointments will give you a chance to provide feedback on these strategies. From there, your coach can continue to meet with you to address academic concerns or schedule periodic appointments to monitor your progress throughout the semester. As coaches, we aim to help you become an effective and self-regulated learner so that you can be as successful as possible while you're at UTSA.

If you would like to meet with an academic coach in the spring of 2018, you can begin scheduling appointments on January 2, 2018, although the coaches will not be meeting with students until classes start. To schedule an appointment with an academic coach, call (210) 458-4694 or come by MS 1.02.02.

This spring, we are offering our workshop series for undergraduate students who wish to learn about study skills in a group environment. The Expert Learner Series will have two workshops on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup> that will help students during the final stretch of the semester. The workshops will focus on exam prep and other skills necessary to finish the semester strong, such as note taking and textbook reading methods. The workshops will take place in the JPL Assembly Room (JPL 4.04.22) from 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. More detailed information about the workshops will be available at [www.utsa.edu/trcss](http://www.utsa.edu/trcss) in the spring.



## The Writing Program's Fall 2017 Scholarship Winners and Instructors

Congratulations to the following Fall 2017 Writing Program scholarship winners and their instructors!

### WRC 1013

- \$3,000 Taylor Allen, "The Art of Peaceful Protesting," Instructor: Dixie Shaw-Tillmon
- \$2,000 Justin Ebel, "An Analysis of Propaganda in World War II," Instructor: Robyn Glasscock
- \$2,000 Isiah Barbosa, "Genetic Engineering: A Biological Creating of Segregation," Instructor: Debra Pena

### WRC 1023

- \$3,000 Brandon Richardson, "Observing American Sign Language as a Foreign Language," Instructor: Maike Hudosp
- \$2,000 Jonathan Tschickardt, "The Need for Reliable and Affordable Food: Why Countries Should Use GMOs." Instructor: Jim Longoria
- \$2,000 Michele Kulyk, "When History Repeats Itself: Why Millennial Stereotypes Apply to All Generations," Instructor: Jim Longoria



The Graduate School and Research Building

## International Student Credits TRC for Early Academic Successes

Soe Than traveled a long way to pursue his dream of studying computer science at a top university in the United States. Than was born and raised in Myanmar (Burma) and is the only student enrolled at UTSA from that country.

The international student said that while researching American universities, he read articles about UTSA being a prestigious cybersecurity school in the United States. He read more about the different programs in the College of Business and College of Sciences and knew that UTSA was where he wanted to be.

In the spring of 2015, Than enrolled at UTSA. He says his transition to life in the United States and San Antonio was made a little easier once he asked questions and utilized resources on campus, such as the Office of International Programs and Tomás Rivera Center.

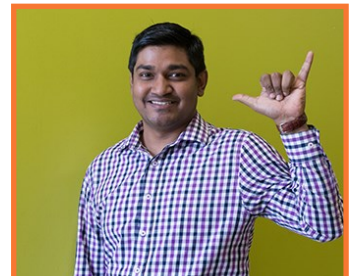
When he visited the Tomás Rivera Center, which provides comprehensive academic support to students, he discussed his academic goals and received coaching that helped him stay on track to earn his computer science degree with a focus on computer and information security.

"I asked a lot of questions and even with the cultural barrier, I was able to tap into support services at UTSA to develop my skills and stay on track to graduate in May of 2018," said Than.

He credits the center for a lot of his early successes at UTSA and has since grown to become a web specialist there. He has also worked in the center as a supplemental instruction leader.

In his free time, the Roadrunner works with the UTSA organization, VOICES, which coordinates volunteer projects and programs for students, faculty and staff. He also serves as the public relations officer in the Association for Computing Machinery at UTSA. The latter helps students identify career paths and networking opportunities in the computing and technology fields.

"I am learning to become a global citizen during my time at UTSA. When I see a problem, I want to be a part of the solution," said Than. "I hope to use the expertise I've gained at UTSA to bring about social equality and bring citizens around the world, from different backgrounds, together."



Soe Than travelled from Myanmar to study cybersecurity at UTSA

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

## MDST Graduate Finds Success Pursuing Public Policy

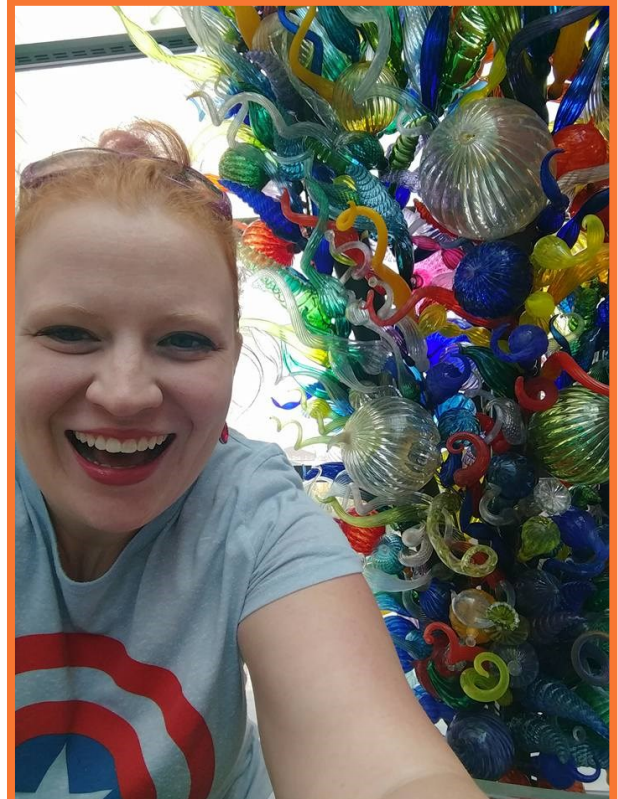
A couple of weeks ago, I had the chance to come back to UTSA and walk around reminiscing about my undergraduate degree. I was struck by the sense of **change, growth, and** truly becoming the person that I want to become. As I look back on my multidisciplinary degree, I can see that the same notion of room to grow and develop my own interests is what drew me to the program in the first place. When I first started at UTSA, I was planning to become an attorney and, to do that, I needed a Bachelor's degree. Since I wanted to specialize in adoption and foster care cases, I felt like it made sense to pursue a degree in sociology to better understand the society I live in. It helped that I could take elective courses in law, especially those I took while participating in the UTSA Summer Law School Preparation Academy (SLSPA). As a sophomore, I spent a semester in Washington DC interning for the Australian Embassy as an Archer Fellow. More importantly, because I was working in the political system in DC, I was able to learn more about *how* laws were made so this opportunity was aligned with my goals of becoming an attorney. By the time I had taken advantage of these law-related opportunities, it was looking as if it would take me an additional year to complete my undergraduate coursework. Luckily, UTSA had just started offering the degree in Multidisciplinary Studies so I could combine my coursework in legal studies, honors studies, and sociology and graduate with honors - on time!

At the same time, I was able to gain other experience at UTSA. I joined the debate team which helped me to formulate arguments regarding a range of topics and practice how to evaluate others' arguments. I worked as a Supplemental Instruction Leader where I honed my public speaking skills and learned how to engage students with material they may not have previously considered interesting. I interned in State Senator Leticia Van de Putte's district office where I performed substantial case work for her constituents and got my first insight into the scope of government. This last experience led to opportunities after I graduated to work with State Senator Wendy Davis's second state senate race and to intern in Senator Van de Putte's Capital office as a Luna Scholar.

Since graduating from UTSA with the degree in Multidisciplinary Studies, I have earned a Master's degree in Public Administration with concentrations in nonprofit and organizational management and have completed my first two years of Doctoral work, both at the University of Georgia. Notably, UGA's public policy program is ranked #4 by *US News and World Report* (and 2<sup>nd</sup> in public institutions).

I was selected to be a part of the 2015 University Of Pennsylvania Fels Institute Of Policy National Policy Competition. With the three other members of my team, we conceptualized and pitched (fem)me, a nonprofit that provides menstrual hygiene products for individuals who menstruate while experiencing homelessness. We won the competition and brought home \$15,000 to implement (fem)me. During our first months we handed out 50 kits filled with all of the products that an individual would need to have a hygienic period. (Fem)me is still going strong and has increased our kit provision to over 500 kits per month.

In looking back on my choice to pursue a Multidisciplinary Studies degree at UTSA, I realize that I was lucky to have the opportunity to try new interests and to bring all of them together in one degree. As important, I could do this and still graduate in four years so that I was able to campaign in the 2012 election season and then immediately following that campaign begin my graduate degrees.



*Brianna Yoder, a 2012 graduate of the Multidisciplinary Studies Program, was also a Supplemental Instruction Leader at the Tomás Rivera Center during her junior and senior years.*

## 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

### Tomás Rivera Center

210-458-4694

### University College

210-458-5191

### Writing Program

210-458-5363

## Spring Academic Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 7</b>	8 - First Day of Classes	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 - MLK Holiday - University	16	17 - Add/Drop Date	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 - Census Date	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	<b>February 1</b>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24