Celebrating Undergraduate Research

Research is typically thought of as a pursuit for faculty or graduate students, but participating in a research project as an undergraduate gives students a better understanding of their field and the opportunity to develop relationships with faculty. From April 24–30, UT will celebrate undergraduate research with a series of events:

Thursday, April 24: Celebrating Honors Day. The Honors Program undergraduate research fellows will give oral presentations of their findings as part of Honors Day celebrations. Presentations begin at 4 p.m. on the 9th Floor of the Vaughn Center.

Friday, April 25: College of Natural and Health Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium. CNHS students will present their current or recently completed research projects in a poster format. The keynote presentation will be held in Sykes College of Business Room 131 from 2–3 p.m. Poster presentations will be held in Plant Hall’s Fletcher Lounge from 3–5 p.m.

Sykes College of Business Student Research Day. Students from the Sykes College of Business will present their current or recently completed research projects in a poster format. Poster presentations will be held in the Cass Gym from 3–5 p.m.

Sunday, April 26: Annual Human Rights Conference. Organized by UT’s Human Rights Think Tank, the conference is dedicated to the understanding, analysis and promotion of the global human rights movement. Presentations will be made by students, academicians and human rights activists. The conference will be held on the 9th floor of the Vaughn Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30: College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education Undergraduate Research Conference. CSSME students will present original, empirical research within an area of the disciplines represented in the college. The event will be held in Plant Hall’s Fletcher Lounge from 4–5:30 p.m.

For more information, go to www.ut.edu/urc.

Important Dates

- May 5 — Last day of spring classes.
- May 6–9 — Spring final exams.
- May 9 — Reception for members of the Class of 2014.
- May 9 — Legacy Photo Opportunity at 4:30 p.m. on the 9th floor of the Vaughn Center.
- May 10 — Commencement; residence halls close (except for graduating seniors).
- May 11 — Residence halls close for graduating seniors at 11 a.m.
- Aug. 21 — Final registration and payment.
- Aug. 22 — Residence halls open for continuing students.
- Aug. 25 — Fall classes begin.
- Sept. 1 — Labor Day, no classes.

A detailed calendar of events is available at www.ut.edu.

Optimize Summer Break

While summer is a great time for relaxing with family and friends, UT offers plenty of options for students who want to get more out of their summer.

Students can enroll in one of UT’s summer sessions, which is a great way to satisfy prerequisites and other courses needed to graduate. There is a two-week May Term, May 12–23; two six-week sessions, May 27–July 7 or July 7–Aug. 16; and a 12-week session, May 27–Aug. 16.

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Life After UT

With commencement right around the corner, you may be wondering what the next steps are for your student. Will they continue their education in graduate school? Or will they find a job and start their career? No matter what your student decides, the University has a number of resources that can help them make the transition.

UT graduates can still take advantage of HIRE-UT (http://ut.experience.com) in their job search. The site has a list of events, including on-campus workshops, career fairs and information sessions with graduate schools and employers. HIRE-UT is also a great place to look for job postings.

All graduates automatically become members of the UT National Alumni Association and receive a free one-year membership in the Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter. Both groups are active on and off campus and work together to host events throughout the year. Employees from UT’s alumni office often travel to major cities to bring alumni and current parents together to share all the exciting things happening at the University. The alumni office also has a website — http://alumni.ut.edu — that allows graduates to connect online.

Changed Your Mind About Fall Housing?

Students no longer wanting to live on campus for the 2014-2015 academic year have until June 1, 2014 to cancel their 2014-2015 housing contract. For more information, contact Residence Life at reslife@ut.edu.

What Happens on Spring Break …

Students traveled near and far over spring break, some to the closest pool or beach, some as far away as Australia and China. Some used the week to do community service or spend time with their family. Many took Flat Sparty along to share their adventures. Go to www.ut.edu/utspringbreak to see a compilation of photos they shared along the way.

Spring 2014 Commencement

Spring 2014 Commencement is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, at 9:30 a.m. at the Tampa Bay Times Forum in Tampa. Doors will open at 8:15 a.m. and seating is first come, first served. The ceremony will last approximately two hours and 45 minutes.

The schedule is as follows:
- 8 a.m.–3 p.m. — University bookstore open.
- 8:15 a.m. — Tampa Bay Times Forum opens for seating. Seating is not reserved.
- 9 a.m. — Graduates assemble in caps and gowns for the processional.
- 9:30 a.m. — Ceremony begins.

Live coverage of the ceremony at www.ut.edu/commencementlive allows students to share this important event with loved ones who cannot attend.

The Embassy Suites – Downtown is the host hotel for graduation. To reserve a room, call (813) 769-8300.

The reception to honor the class of 2014 and their family members will be held on Friday, May 9, from 4–7 p.m. on the ninth floor of the Vaughn Center.

Light refreshments will be served. Dress is casual. All graduates and their family members are invited to attend.

Also, to publicize your graduate’s accomplishments in your hometown newspaper, go to www.ut.edu/commencement to fill in the Hometown Press Release form to have the University send an official graduation press release to your local newspaper.

For additional information, visit www.ut.edu/commencement/may.
Parent Gifts are Priceless

If you wonder why the University asks you to make an Annual Fund gift in addition to your students’ annual tuition, you are not alone. We get that question from parents regularly.

Annual giving is the lifeblood of the University and requires the support of alumni, friends, faculty, staff, community members and parents to support this unrestricted giving program. In addition to providing scholarships to students, the Annual Fund helps to fulfill needs campus-wide. Continued support of the Annual Fund is an investment in the future of today’s students and your own child’s degree.

Parents have contributed more than $70,000 this year to the Annual Fund! This money will help the 92 percent of students that receive financial assistance.

If you have not made a gift yet this year, it’s not too late! You can mail your gift to Taylor Pinke at The University of Tampa, 401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Box H, Tampa, FL 33606-1490. We value and are grateful for your generosity.

Filing the FAFSA

Now is the time to file the 2014-2015 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). There are only two official FAFSA sites that allow you to submit the FAFSA for free and you can visit them at www.fafsa.ed.gov or www.fafsa.gov. We encourage parents to fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible as it is required for students to continue receiving financial aid for the upcoming academic year.

Gathering in Beantown — Keith and Trish Saba, parents of a UT first-year student, attended their first regional alumni and parent gathering in Boston on Feb. 7. The group of 60 alumni, current parents and friends met at the Greatest Bar for a pre-game social before heading to the TD Garden to watch the Celtics beat the Sacramento Kings. This event has become a spring tradition and is a favorite among attendees.
Health Fees Explained

$370 student health fee is assessed each semester to full-time undergraduate students taking 12 or more credit hours. This mandatory fee provides for the student health insurance plan, administered by United Healthcare.

The student health fee provides students a means of seeking medical services and ways to seek help with emotional challenges without burdening their families.

The fee provides on-campus services, including healthcare, counseling and wellness services in the Dickey Health and Wellness Center. It also provides an off-campus insurance benefit. The insurance benefit meets the requirements of the Affordable Care Act as it applies to colleges and universities and can be coordinated with other insurance policies.

In Fall 2013, UT hired an independent consultant to evaluate the University’s health and wellness program, including our health fee. The consultant reported the health center has highly skilled health care providers, delivering services in a state-of-the-art facility and high productivity and fiscal effectiveness.

The consultants also stated that providing a comprehensive college health program for a per semester health fee of $370 is remarkable. UT has an optimal program compared to almost all private colleges and universities.

For more information go to www.ut.edu/healthcenter and www.ut.edu/wellness.