

MINARET Minute

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA FAMILY ASSOCIATION ▲ ORIENTATION 2017-2018

Welcome to the UT Family Association!

Stay Involved and Informed from Near or Far

The University of Tampa is happy to welcome you to the UT community. Parents and family members of UT students are automatically members of the UT Family Association, which serves to establish, maintain and enhance communication between families and the UT community.

Through the UT Family Association, parents and family members can participate in UT's educational experience in a number of ways:

FAMILY ASSOCIATION BOARD

The purpose of the Family Association Board is to support the mission of the University through ambassadorship and philanthropic support.

Serving on the Family Association Board provides an opportunity for parents and family members to participate in a meaningful way in the educational experience of UT students. The board represents all four undergraduate classes per year. Board members come from various backgrounds and regions, and can serve for a one-year term with the option to renew each year.

PARENT AND FAMILY FUND

Tuition alone doesn't cover the cost of educating UT students. UT relies on support from the Parent and Family Fund, an important component of the annual giving program. Gifts from current and past parents support student scholarships, help maintain the beauty of our campus and keep us at the forefront of technology. UT offers a variety of giving opportunities, and parents give at all levels.



In addition, to ensure you're informed of campus news and events, you will receive:

The *Minaret Minute*, an e-newsletter sent from the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations. *Minaret Minute* provides answers to questions about UT life and shares information about a variety of ways to stay connected with your student.

The *UT Journal* is published three times a year. The *UT Journal* contains features about the UT community, University news, information about campus and regional events, as well as parent and alumni notes.

To keep connected, go to www.ut.edu/familyassociation to update your contact information. ▲



Important Contacts

Academic Advising	(813) 257-5757
Academic Success Center	(813) 257-5757
Alumni and Parent Relations	(813) 257-3219
Athletics	(813) 257-3100
Bursar	(813) 253-6202
Campus Safety	(813) 257-7777
Dickey Health and Wellness Center	(813) 253-6250
Development and University Relations	(813) 253-6220
Financial Aid	(813) 253-6219
Orientation, Family Engagement and Commencement	(813) 257-1999
Post Office	(813) 257-3364
Registrar	(813) 253-6251
Residence Life	(813) 253-6239
Student Affairs	(813) 253-6204
Student Conduct	(813) 258-7228

Avis Discount

Planning to travel back to UT for Family Weekend or Homecoming? UT and Avis have partnered to offer UT family discounts for rental cars. And, every time you rent with Avis using a special UT discount code, Avis will make a contribution back to UT. See

www.ut.edu/avis. ▲

Mark Your Calendar!

- ▲ Aug. 28 — Fall semester begins
- ▲ Oct. 6–7 — Family Weekend (Register at www.ut.edu/family.)
- ▲ Nov. 22–26 — Thanksgiving Break
- ▲ Dec. 12–14 — Fall final exams
- ▲ Dec. 15 — Fall semester ends, residence halls closed
- ▲ Dec. 16 — Fall Commencement
- ▲ Jan. 2 — Winter intersession begins
- ▲ Jan. 12 — Winter intersession ends
- ▲ Jan. 16 — Spring semester begins
- ▲ March 5–9 — Spring Break
- ▲ May. 1–4 — Spring final exams
- ▲ May 4 — Spring semester ends, residence halls closed
- ▲ May. 5 — Spring Commencement

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

Be “In the Know” with UT Web Alerts

To receive breaking news about UT directly to your email, sign up for UT Web Alerts. When a Web Alert is distributed, subscribers will receive an email with an internet link to the full news story or update. Individuals may subscribe to alerts about general news, tropical weather or both. For more information and to subscribe, go to www.ut.edu/utwebalerts. ▲

Bicycle and Car Sharing

BikeUT, UT’s free bicycle rental program, provides students with bicycles to use on a daily basis for recreational or personal use. All rentals originate at the Fitness and Recreation Center. For more information, go to www.ut.edu/bikeut.

For longer trips, students can rent vehicles through Zipcar on campus. Drivers ages 18 and older can rent a car at a low rate that includes gas and insurance by the hour or the day, available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Learn more at www.ut.edu/zipcar. ▲



First-Year Experience Program Ensures Smooth Transition

Beginning a college career is a significant and exciting milestone, but it can be overwhelming for both students and their families.

UT’s First-Year Experience program, which is a requirement for all first-year students, is designed to give entering students the tools to make intelligent decisions about personal matters, academic direction and career choices.

The program is composed of a two-course sequence taken in the fall and spring semesters. A member of the faculty teaches both courses and serves as an adviser and mentor to help their students adjust to college, succeed in academic pursuits, and create plans for career paths that they will pursue after college.

First-Year Experience places a strong emphasis on time management. In order to succeed, first-year students must effectively manage their time outside of class, balance their academic and social life, plan their academic career to satisfy



Edesa Scarborough, Director of First-Year Experience

their degree requirements and begin to prepare for a career path. First-Year Experience faculty meet with students regularly each semester to offer guidance in making these adjustments and finding success.

Most importantly, the program provides the students with a faculty member whom they can turn to for guidance with both their academic lives and other aspects of life at UT. The program places students on the path to academic and personal success from the moment they set foot on campus. ▲

Student Records and FERPA

Under the provisions of the 1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), any information (other than directory information) from a student’s educational record is considered confidential and cannot be released to any member of the general public, including the student’s parents, without the student’s written permission.

If your student has not submitted a FERPA Release to Parents form, you can still make the request for access by demonstrating that the student was claimed as a dependent on your most recent tax return.

For additional information, go to www.ut.edu/registrar/ferpa or contact Michelle Pelaez, University registrar, at registrar@ut.edu or (813) 253-6251. ▲



The University Of

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SYMBOL OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

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