



Leadership Link

Center for Leadership Development
The University of Tennessee

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Special Points of Interest

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"One that beareth the torch shadoweth oneself to give light to others."

Volunteer Creed

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Top 10 Ways to Get inVOLved on Campus

By: Edie McCants

Being involved on campus is a must when it comes to being successful at UT, and also in the future. Being involved on campus increases your competitive advantage when applying to graduate schools, medical schools, law schools, etc. It is also important to use the resources and opportunities offered at UT. Being involved helps students meet people and build relationships that may last a lifetime. Ten of the best ways to begin or expand your involvement on campus are:

1. Be open-minded - Try something outside your comfort zone. It may be beneficial!
2. Be aware of what is happening on campus - Read the Daily Beacon or look at UT's website.
3. Try - Apply for everything that interests you.
4. Provide community service - VOLunteer in with organizations such as Team Vols, where you are sure to meet others that might lead you to other ideas.
5. Be active - Join organizations will benefit you.
6. Utilize your personal skills - Find your strengths and learn where they can be useful.
7. Talk to your professors - Professors are often advisors for organizations and can put you on a good path, especially for your major.
8. Attend events on campus - Go to a variety of things to widen your options.
9. Do your research - Opportunities are listed everywhere. Check the student activities office, the Black Cultural Center, bulletin boards, the student@tennesse newsletter, or whatever else you can find.
10. Keep a positive attitude - There is something for everyone at UT!

Dance Marathon

By: Kelly Donovan

Dance Marathon is a student-run philanthropy, partnering college students with the Children's Miracle Network Hospital. It is the largest student run philanthropy in the country. The event has raised over \$770,000 since it began in

1995. It lasts 14 hours, and students are asked to obtain sponsors for their participation.

Although the event is named Dance Marathon, there is so much more than dancing at this event. The primary goal of Dance Marathon is to raise money for the Oncology and Hematology Clinic at East

Tennessee Children's Hospital.

All one needs to do to participate is either pay a \$25 fee, or turn in 30 addresses of family or friends; and raise \$175. It is an easy and fun way to get involved on campus and help children who really deserve it!

You could be the next Orientation Leader

By: Elvin O'Neal II

Orientation is a fundamental part of a freshman's transition to college. It is often a student's first experience on a college campus. Orientation leaders play a vital roll in the orientation process, often becoming mentors for new students.

It only takes a few simple steps if one desires to become an orientation leader. The first step is to fill out the application if you meet the requirements. The next part of the process consists of three interviews (panel, group, and individual). After the interviews, the decision will be made. Former Orientation Leader, Shayna Webb, recalls her process:

"I saw the flyers and remembered my OL, Curtis Sanderfer, and the impact that he had on me as an incoming freshmen. It also did not hurt that my close friend was also applying. So I filled out the application and signed up for the first interview. I basically stayed true to myself and that seemed to convince them [the interviewers] that I was the person for the job."

If you are a student and feel you have what it takes to become a leader, motivator and mentor, you should consider becoming an orientation leader.

Mortar Board recognizes academic success while providing a meeting place for campus leaders

By: Rachel Estes

By the second semester of your junior year, you may have collected a list of leadership roles as well as good grades. If this applies to you, applying for Mortar Board is a wise next step.

Mortar Board is a national senior honor society consisting of the top seniors in the rising graduating class, according to Kathryn Elam, a member of UT's Mortar Board.

Elam says students can apply in their annual membership drive in February. Mortar Board

bases its selection on service, scholarship and leadership. Student must also be in the top 10% of their class academically.

Mortar Board offers a connection to other campus leaders. "The members of Mortar Board are exceptional and have given me my best experience," said Elam. "Because there are only 50 of us and also due to the way the selection process works, the members truly are the top leaders on campus."

Leadership Guides By: George Frazier III

Leadership Guides is a team of undergraduate students who are committed to learning about leadership and serving the campus community as a peer resource team. The team is made up of a diverse group of students who are leaders in their own right. They operate through the Center for Leadership in UC Room 315. The Leadership Guides team is available to any UT student or organization to provide unlimited resources, services, and a wide variety of information about UT.

They are available to present programs to your organization on leadership, motivation, parliamentary procedures, team building and a broad range of [additional topics](#). All of the team's programs, handouts and workshops can be tailored to fit your group's personal needs. If there is a program or topic your organization needs that may not be listed, Leadership Guides will create it!

Programs are designed to include and engage every participant and to facilitate a learning environment for personal and group development. Being that we attend a diverse public university and live in diverse world, Leadership Guides seek to make all programs applicable and practical to people of all backgrounds so all can benefit.

Currently, Leadership Guides are actively seeking or "fetching" new and old organizations to present programs and workshops. If you or your organization are interested in having a program presented, please fill out a program request from the link posted on the Leadership Guide website at <http://web.utk.edu/~leader/> and click on the Leadership Guides link.

Emerging Leaders By: Jacob Balesi

What is Emerging Leaders? Emerging Leaders is a three credit-hour (pass/fail) leadership course taught every spring for freshmen, sophomores and juniors interested in studying leaders, leadership theories and the application of leadership in a variety of situations.

How do I become involved with the Emerging Leaders class? To take the class, you must fill out an application and go through an interview process in November.

Do you actually learn something? As a former Emerging Leader, Chris Barker said, "Emerging Leaders is an awesome way to meet others on campus that have similar aspirations in leadership. The program helps to brighten a student's eyes about different aspects of leadership while developing close friendships and instilling a sense of pride in the University of Tennessee."

For more information, contact the representatives in the Center for Leadership.

Q&A with an R.A. By: Shanika Sanders

Working as a Resident Assistant (R.A.) is a rewarding and challenging way to become involved on campus. There is also the added bonus of a monthly paycheck ranging from \$580-\$610! Audrienne Ector, a Greve Hall RA, tells more about life as a Resident Assistant.

Why did you decide to become an R.A.?

I became an R.A. in order to get more involved on campus. I also wanted the opportunity to connect with younger students to be a positive influence and help them to have a better college experience.

How do you become an R.A.?

In order to become an R.A., you must first go through an application process. Once that step is completed you must go through a group interview process with other applicants as well as an individual interview with current housing staff. Those applicants that are accepted after individual interviews must go through a nine-week R.A. course to better prepare them for being hired. At the end of the course, Hall Directors select those applicants that would work best in their building and with their staff.

What was your best experience as an R.A.?

My best experience as an

R.A. was being able to help a resident with a particularly hard situation. I developed a close relationship with this resident because she trusted and confided in me. I was rewarded most by this experience because I feel like I truly helped someone who had run out of options and may not be where they are today if I hadn't taken the time to talk to them.

What are some of the issues someone might face as an R.A.?

Resident Assistants may have to deal with some uncomfortable situations, such as: writing up residents who break housing rules and policies, staying objective in situations or disagreements between residents or co-workers, and having late hours sometimes.

Resident Assistants will also have to learn to get along with all types of people and respect the opinions of others.

What is the one thing you did not know before becoming an R.A. that would have been helpful?

I wish I had been more prepared to deal with knowing that living where you work can be fun, but it is also quite challenging. In a sense you are always working and responsible for not only following the rules yourself, but enforcing them as well.

Time management is an important quality in this position. I didn't plan for the variety of the different responsibilities and the importance of knowing how to manage my time.

Alternative Spring Break Locations: Uniontown, PA and New Orleans



Left: Uniontown spring-breakers.

Below: New Orleans team after painting the rock.

Photos by:
Kendra Savage



Student Success Center By: Artieka Smith

The Student Success Center, located at 1817 Melrose Avenue, coordinates many socially academic programs for University of Tennessee students.

While many UT students are faced with the challenges of being a student, The Student Success Center provides the support that you need to be successful.

With a mission of promoting student learning through a comprehensive network of support and referral, the Student

Success Center, is ready to assist you in navigating the various resources on campus and utilizing them in a way that meets the academic needs of all students.

There are many programs that the SSC helps to facilitate which include First Year Studies, National Student Exchange (NSE), the Volunteer Community, the University Advising Committee and Undergraduate Academic Appeals.

The center also provides guidance to student groups, such as fraternities or residence hall floors, wishing to form success groups.

Career Services **By Lanisha Evans**

Career Services is one of the many resources available to UT students. Some students may be struggling to decide what career path is right for them while others may be ready to look for a job and take on the world. Career Services can cater to both of these needs and more. It is a useful tool to all students, regardless of what stage an individual student is in his or her college career. For those who are unsure which career path is right for them, Career Services offers a course called Exploring Majors and Careers. The course is designed to help students learn about themselves and how to identify potential career choices that interest them. There are also career surveys and

counseling available to better help students better learn about themselves and their interests.

Often Career Services serves as a mediator between college and the outside world. The Career Services office has many resources pertaining to internships and companies looking for employees. Career Services also provides help with resumes, dining and business etiquette, mock interviewing and negotiation and salary information. In addition to these in-office resources, Career Services hosts job fairs throughout the year as well.

You can take advantage of all of these services and more by visiting Career Services, located at 100 Dunford Hall or by calling (865)974-5435. You can also visit the Career Services website at <http://career.utk.edu/>.

Peer Mentors **By: Channa Palmer**

The 2005 fall semester marked the introduction of peer mentors by the Student Success Center (SCC) as an undergraduate mentoring team available to smooth the transition between high school and college for freshman enrolled in First Year Studies. In fall 2006 over 60 undergraduates served as peer mentors. They worked with First Year Studies instructors on everything from fun, icebreaking activities, explanations of campus resources, organizations and services, and ideas on becoming fully integrated and connected to the Big Orange community.

During my time as a peer mentor, few things were more fun or challenging than meeting my class of freshmen and explaining to them all the reasons why UT is great and how they have the opportunity to make our campus better and brighter.

My experience studying abroad **By: Jennifer Rookard**

I studied abroad in Australia in fall 2006. The University of Southern Queensland really opened my eyes to a new world. Never having been outside of the United States, I met people not only from Australia, but also people from Europe, Asia and Africa. Being a rather shy person, the experience of traveling alone pushed me to come out of my shell. Opening up to a diverse crowd challenged me, and I am so thankful it did. My trip helped me to gain a confidence I had never felt before.

The friends I made overseas were the best part of the trip. I keep in a regular correspondence with many of them.

Getting involved in the process was easy. I attended a study abroad fair in the University Center Ballroom and gathered information from several universities from around the world. Then, I narrowed it down to the place I most wanted to go. From there, I went to one of the information sessions in the programs abroad office. They helped me decide on which school to attend, and they were very clear with what paperwork needed to be done.

There has already been a study abroad fair this semester, but this does not have to be everyone's beginning point. At any time during the semester, the programs abroad office, between Melrose Hall and Hoskins Library, will give information to anyone interested in going overseas. The office provides both general information sessions and sessions for specific countries. I highly recommend checking it out. Studying abroad could be the highlight of your academic career; it definitely was mine!

An ideal peer mentor according to Aaron Todd, the Assistant Advising Director for the college of Arts and Sciences and First Years Studies instructor, is one that "in the first two to three weeks (of the course) covers expectations of class, but builds a community." Todd further explained peer mentors are needed to "reach out to someone too tired to participate or someone often missing class to ask what's wrong and show someone cares."

Peer mentors should be able to gather details about what concerns and questions many first-year students may have but are too afraid to ask.

Peer mentoring is a great experience, but ultimately about the students and classes the mentors serve. Todd believes the best peer mentor "reacts to the cards they are dealt and knows how to follow."

To get more information about peer mentors and their roles on campus contact the Student Success Center at 1817 Melrose Ave Knoxville, TN 37996.