Greetings Parents’ League Members!

The spring semester is in full swing and with it we bring you the second edition of the Parents’ League newsletter, Pillars.

This issue focuses on two important questions frequently asked by liberal arts parents. First, “What programs does the college have in place to help my student who is struggling with their classes?” Associate Dean Marc Musick, discusses a new program called UTurn that specifically targets our college’s most academically vulnerable students and provides them with the necessary support to turn their academic careers around.

Second, this issue addresses the question of, “What type of career assistance is available to my student?” Liberal arts students are fortunate to have access to incredible career service resources. The College of Liberal Arts Career Services office is run by a talented staff who offer a vast array of programs to help our students translate a liberal arts education into a world of opportunities.

As always, I hope you find this issue helpful and informative. If you ever have a topic that you would like addressed, or a general question, please feel free to visit the Parents’ League website at www.colaparents.org and contact us by phone or email. We are here to help you and be your resource for all things liberal arts.

I wish you and your student a happy and healthy spring semester. Hopefully you are able to make some visits to Austin in the coming months.

Hook ‘em!

- Jeff

Jeff Davis is the chair of the Parents’ League Advisory Committee. He is a partner at McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore in Houston and a father to three daughters. His youngest is in her second year in the College of Liberal Arts.

Upcoming Events

March 7, 2009
Explore UT
UT campus, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
The biggest open house in Texas. Details can be found on the Explore UT website at www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut/.

May 22, 2009
College of Liberal Arts Spring Commencement
Frank Erwin Center, Noon
Details are posted on the college’s website at www.utexas.edu/cola/graduation/ceremony/.

May 23, 2009
University of Texas Spring Commencement
UT campus, South Mall, 8 p.m.
This university-wide ceremony is open to graduating students from all university colleges and schools. For more information please visit www.utexas.edu/commencement/2009.

Save the Date!

October 23-25, 2009
University of Texas Family Weekend 2009
Priority registration for College of Liberal Arts Parents’ League Members begins on August 6, 2009.

More information on all events can be found on the liberal arts website www.utexas.edu/cola
Associate Dean Marc Musick is both a longhorn and a member of the College of Liberal Arts community through and through.

“My first year, I was in aerospace engineering,” said Dean Musick, who was an undergraduate at the university from 1987 to 1992. “I co-oped with NASA my sophomore year, realized it just wasn’t for me, and then switched to sociology. My last year, I started working intensely with Chris Ellison in sociology. At this point, we have almost a half-dozen publications together and are still colleagues and friends.”

After graduating from The University of Texas at Austin, Dean Musick earned a Ph.D. in sociology from Duke University. He then spent two years at the University of Michigan as a research fellow, but he soon returned to UT Austin, this time as a professor. Serving as a faculty undergraduate studies chair in sociology, he was inspired to answer the call to a new position in January 2007.

In his two years as Associate Dean, Musick has introduced a number of measures designed to improve students’ experiences. These have included restructuring the orientation experience for new students, the revitalization of the Liberal Arts Council, the official student voice of the college, the creation of the Asklibby.org information portal, and the formation of the Liberal Arts Parents’ League.

Dean Musick is also focusing on improving college outreach to students who struggle academically. This effort is best exemplified by UTurn, a new program for students on scholastic probation that debuted this spring. Students on academic probation are invited to participate in the program, which combines intensive academic advising, faculty mentorship and tutoring from the UT Learning Center. Dean Musick was inspired to start the program after his personal experience mentoring two at-risk students as a part of another university program.

“This is about helping our most vulnerable students,” Dean Musick said. “UTurn is a collaborative effort. Its goal is to create a web of support with faculty, advisors, and the learning center. It can’t work without everyone playing a part. Parents also have an incredibly important role to play in this, by encouraging students to seek out help when they’re in trouble.”

Dean Musick reports that faculty response has been overwhelmingly positive, with more faculty members volunteering to act as mentors than needed. He has been pleased with the response.

“My primary motivation for becoming a dean is that I love this university,” Dean Musick said. “I think it can be one of the great public universities, and I hope to do more to help it get there as a dean. It’s the same reason I got involved with the undergraduates in the sociology department. I care about the students. I want them to have the best educational experience they can.”

www.utexas.edu/cola
The College of Liberal Arts UTurn Program

The College of Liberal Arts takes great pride in the ability, ingenuity, and work ethic of its many students. Yet, the college must also acknowledge that for some, adapting to the university experience is challenging and can lead to academic difficulty. Although the majority of undergraduate students in the college never face scholastic probation or the possibility of dismissal, a minority of students do face these problems.

In an effort to further help liberal arts students in academic difficulty and reduce the possibility of academic dismissal, the college has created a new program, UTurn. UTurn targets students on scholastic probation and provides them the resources they will need to succeed academically and leave behind probationary status. Research on retention efforts has shown that the best way to help students in academic difficulty is to provide them with a web of mentors who communicate with one another; thus, UTurn is primarily structured around providing mentorship opportunities to students.

**How it Works**

**Mentorship**

All students who are on academic probation are invited to join the program, but only some of them will accept. Students who join the program will benefit from all of the following mentorship opportunities:

- **UTurn academic advisor.** Each UTurn student will be assigned a specific academic advisor who has been trained to work with students who are in academic difficulty.
- **Faculty advisor.** Students will be assigned a faculty member who will meet with them on a bi-weekly basis to discuss academic and other issues.
- **UT Learning Center (UTLC) advisor.** The UTLC employs staff advisors who will be assigned to each student in the program to help those students get the academic support they may need to succeed in coursework.

It is expected that all three mentors will regularly communicate with one another so that they can work with the student as a team to identify and alleviate problems more quickly than could be accomplished by a single mentor.

**Additional Resources**

Although the mentorship opportunities will be vitally important for the success of the student, the college will provide several other resources that will enable students to be academically successful.

- **College workshops.** The Liberal Arts Student Division will coordinate and host several workshops for students in the program such as discussions on time management, study skills, exam preparation, and health and wellness.
- **Tutoring.** Tutoring is provided by the UTLC to all undergraduate students on campus, and students in UTurn will be encouraged to take advantage of this tutoring. Unfortunately, the UTLC only provides a limited number of free tutoring sessions before the students are charged by the hour. To alleviate this financial burden, the college will help offset the cost of tutoring for UTurn students.

With this program in place, the college hopes to provide all students with the resources they need to succeed academically. If you have further questions about the UTurn program, please send them to the college’s information portal, AskLibby at www.asklibby.org.
“What are you going to do with a liberal arts degree?” is the question your UT student is most often asked—and typically dreads. Yet a liberal arts education contributed to the success of luminaries ranging from President John F. Kennedy (History), and the first female astronaut Sally Ride (English), to Silicon Valley venture capitalist Guy Kawasaki (Psychology) and the executive vice president of JP Morgan Chase Dina Dublon (Economics).

Of course, your student will chart their own, unique career path. We find that UT liberal arts students are as creative and open-minded about their career choices as they are about their education. Some decide to go to law school; others want to work in government or education. A majority of our graduates end up in businesses ranging from internationally-known consultancies to locally-owned enterprises. Careers in the arts and entertainment field, health care professions, nonprofit organizations, or research institutes are also popular. Teach for America, the Peace Corps, the Foreign Service... these opportunities and many more are all open to your student. Liberal Arts Career Services (LACS) is where they can find help and support in identifying what they want to do after graduating, as well as discover how to turn those dreams into reality.

LACS’ mission, *Translating a liberal arts education into a world of opportunities*, is far from empty rhetoric. Their goal is not only to ensure your student realizes how valuable the breadth and depth of liberal arts study is in today’s world of work, but to help them communicate that value to prospective employers—in whatever field they are interested in pursuing.

Liberal Arts Career Services offers your student the following services and resources:

- Career coaching and advising including: researching jobs and internships, crafting and refining resumes, and mock interview practice
- Pre-law advising including: critique of law school applications and essays
- Credit-based career education courses that range from identifying the strengths of each liberal arts major to getting the most out of internship experiences
- Connections to employers ranging from government agencies and nonprofits to Fortune 500 companies and the private sector—through attendance at career and internship fairs, on-campus recruiting, information sessions, and job search databases

The College of Liberal Arts shares your concern about the future success and fulfillment of your student. Like you, we wish to ensure that they leave this university with the materials and skills that make them highly competitive in the job marketplace—whether they want a full-time, paid position directly after graduating, take a year out to travel and gain wider experiences, or defer joining the workforce by going directly to graduate school. But we can only help them if they take advantage of LACS’ services and resources while in college.

Please do your part by encouraging your student to check out the wealth of resources at LACS in person, or on the website accessed at [www.utexas.edu/cola/lacs/](http://www.utexas.edu/cola/lacs/).

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**College of Liberal Arts Career Services**  
**Director, Dr. Kate Brooks**

Dr. Kate Brooks received her Ed.D. in Educational Psychology and MS in Rehabilitation Counseling from West Virginia University. She joined The University of Texas at Austin in 2003 and has provided career guidance to liberal arts students for more than 20 years. Her expertise in liberal arts career issues is recognized in nationally syndicated columns and publications. She has written numerous articles on topics including how to market a liberal arts degree, career coaching strategies, and making the most of a study abroad experience. Dr. Brooks is the author of a new book entitled *You Majored in What? Mapping Your Path from Chaos to Career*, published by Viking Press (2009).
Beyond The Tower (BTT) comprises three coaching packages designed exclusively for UT liberal arts students. Nothing like it can be found elsewhere on campus! Once enrolled, students can choose between the Job Search package, the Internship Prep package, or the Pre-Law package. Students get to design their own plan with the support and guidance of a career coach or advisor. Services like this on the open market can cost upwards of $750. Your student can receive these services as part of their tuition and fees.

Each BTT participant receives a certificate upon completion that recognizes their commitment to their future success. Most important of all, involvement in this unique program will arm your student with the confidence, skills, and professionalism necessary to be highly competitive in today’s challenging job market.

To find out more about this exciting opportunity please visit: www.utexas.edu/cola/lacs/btt/.

Contact LACS
Liberal Arts Career Services
The University of Texas at Austin
1 University Station, G6200
Austin, TX 78712
Office: Flawn Academic Center (FAC) 18
Phone: (512) 471-7900
E-mail: lacs@austin.utexas.edu
http://www.utexas.edu/cola/lacs

Introducing ShelfLife@Texas

This fall, The University of Texas at Austin Office of Public Affairs launched ShelfLife@Texas, a blog for readers to discuss literature, book news and literary events at the university. ShelfLife offers readers an inside look at the university’s vibrant community of authors. Contributors write about books by faculty, staff members, students and alumni, on topics ranging from the arts, history and the humanities, to business, law and politics. Visit ShelfLife@Texas at http://www.utexas.edu/opa/blogs/shelflife/ today!

Winner of a 2009 “Best of Texas Award” from the Texas Public Relations Association

Save the Date • Save the Date • Save the Date • Save the Date • Save the Date • Save the Date • Save the Date

August 6, 2009

The University of Texas Parents’ Association is extending priority registration for Family Weekend 2009 to members of the College of Liberal Arts Parents’ League. Family weekend will take place Friday, October 23-Sunday, October 25, 2009. League members are invited to register on the Texas Parents’ website www.texasparents.org on Thursday, August 6, 2009, one week prior to open registration. Take advantage of this exclusive offer and reserve your spot at the weekend’s most popular events.

www.utexas.edu/cola
The College of Liberal Arts is now on Facebook!

Whether you are an alumnum, a student, a parent, a faculty member or a friend, become a fan of the College of Liberal Arts-University of Texas at Austin Facebook page and receive news, event notifications, and alumni announcements. As a fan, you can share your professional and personal achievements with your friends in the College of Liberal Arts community. Have you lost touch with some of your classmates? Facebook is the easiest way to reconnect. If you do not want a profile of your own, you can still view the college’s page. Visit the College of Liberal Arts alumni website www.utexas.edu/cola/alumni/ and click on the Facebook icon. We look forward to hearing from you!

Learning Through Performance
The Shakespeare at Winedale Program

Shakespeare at Winedale is a University of Texas program dedicated to bringing Shakespeare to life through performance. Founded by Professor James B. Ayres in 1970 on the belief that the best way to study Shakespeare's plays is to perform them, Shakespeare at Winedale offers a unique opportunity to explore these rich and complex texts through the creative act of play. Shakespeare at Winedale, housed in the English Department, has grown into a year-round program with several program options that involve every age group.

- A summer program where UT students spend two months in the Texas countryside, studying and performing three plays in the converted nineteenth-century barn that is the theatre.
- Camp Shakespeare provides a two-week experience of learning and playing Shakespeare for 10-16 year-olds.
- The Shakespeare at Winedale Outreach program brings Shakespeare into the classrooms of elementary school students throughout central Texas, and brings those students to Winedale to perform.
- A summer course for teachers through the UTeach program.
- Visits by British Shakespeareans to the Winedale theatre barn.
- Special performances in other venues, including an annual tour to England.

For more information visit the Shakespeare at Winedale website www.shakespeare-winedale.org/.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 16-21</td>
<td>Spring Break.</td>
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<td>March 30</td>
<td>Deadline day. Last day to apply to graduate.</td>
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<td>April 6</td>
<td>Priority date for student financial aid applications for the fall semester.</td>
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<td>April 20-25, 27-May 1</td>
<td>Registration for the summer session and the fall semester for continuing and readmitted students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Tuition and fee bill for the summer session distributed to students electronically.</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>Last class day.</td>
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<td>May 13-16, 18-19</td>
<td>Final exams.</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>5 p.m.: Tuition and fee payment deadline for undergraduate students who registered for the summer session during the spring.</td>
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<td>May 21-24</td>
<td>Graduation ceremonies in the colleges and schools.</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>University residence halls close at 9 a.m. for graduating students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Memorial Day holiday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Summer residence halls open at 9 a.m.</td>
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<td>June 4</td>
<td>Summer session classes begin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>Registration for the fall semester begins for new summer session students and for continuing and readmitted students who have not yet registered for the fall.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 10-11</td>
<td>Final exams for first-term classes.</td>
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<td>July 13</td>
<td>Classes begin for second-term classes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 29-30</td>
<td>Final exams for nine-week classes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 12</td>
<td>5 p.m.: Tuition and fee payment deadline for undergraduate students who registered for the fall semester by July 17.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 15,17</td>
<td>Final exams for second-term and whole-session classes.</td>
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<td>August 19</td>
<td>Orientation and testing begin for new undergraduate students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>University residence halls open at 9 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 24</td>
<td>Registration for the fall semester for continuing students who have not yet registered.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Fall semester classes begin.</td>
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**College of Liberal Arts Commencement Schedule**

**Spring 2009**

**Friday, May 22, 2009**
Government 9 a.m., Gregory Gym  
**Liberal Arts Noon, Frank Erwin Center**  
ROTC 3 p.m., Bates Recital Hall at the PAC  
History 6 p.m., Bass Concert Hall

**Saturday, May 23, 2009**
Economics 9 a.m., Gregory Gym  
Plan II 9 a.m., Hogg Auditorium **Tickets Required**  
English 12:30 p.m., Gregory Gym  
Mexican American Studies 3 p.m., AT&T Center  
Psychology 3:30 p.m., Gregory Gym  
University-wide 8 p.m., South Mall, UT campus
Contact us

Please feel free to contact the Parents’ League with any questions, comments or concerns you might have. We are here to assist you in anyway we can.

Beth Norris
Parents’ League Program Coordinator
College of Liberal Arts
1 University Station, G6300
Austin, TX 78712
emnorris@austin.utexas.edu

(512) 471-6931 (phone)
(512) 232-7360 (fax)

How Do I Join?
Membership in the League is easy and there are no fees to join. Simply fill out the online membership form on the Parents’ League website www.colaparents.org to start receiving news and communications from the League.

Parents’ League Advisory Committee Members
Jeff and Lisa Davis, Houston (Chair)
Todd and Dawn Aaron, Dallas
Kim Bacon, Austin
Thomas R. Delatour, Jr., Beijing
David and Melanie Frazier, Houston
Allison Wagner, Fort Worth