Division News and Standouts, October 2020

Center for Students in Recovery

- We’ve adapted our popular Recovery Ally Training to deliver it via Zoom at noon on Oct. 2. This training helps students, faculty and staff support students in recovery, or hopes of recovery. Learn more and sign up.

Counseling and Mental Health Center

- October is Relationship Violence Prevention Month. Voices Against Violence will be honoring the month with a series of virtual events to raise awareness and provide education to students about healthy relationships.
- If students have a counseling telehealth appointment and they do not have a private space to conduct the appointment, they may use an office on the fifth floor of the Student Services Building.
- On Sept. 14, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Soncia Reagins-Lilly shared mental health resources via email with all incoming students.
- The Longhorn Wellness Center team hosted Suicide Prevention Week Sept. 10-17 virtually, with a high turnout at events (75 people at one). They also used the Healthyhorns social media account to promote suicide prevention information.

New Student Services

- Our office is recruiting orientation advisors Sept. 28–Oct. 21 to lead in the 2021 UT Orientation season.
- We promoted two fun opportunities to engage first-year and transfer students on Sept. 24: Horns Up Night and the Class of 2024 Official Photo Mosaic. Traditionally, we partner with Athletics to host Horns Up Night in the football stadium during Longhorn Welcome as a pep rally for incoming first-year students. During this event, the incoming class’ official photo is taken. This year, due to COVID-19, we hosted Horns Up Night virtually, featuring a message from President Jay Hartzell. We also collected student photos to create a Class of 2024 Official Photo Mosaic. Keep an eye out on social media on Oct. 2 to see the finished mosaic!
Officer Gabriel Gallegos (UT Austin Police Department), Paige Muehlenkamp and Desiree Alva at the aUsTinite SafeTEA program

- Our Off-Campus Initiative staff partnered with the UT Austin Police Department for the virtual aUsTinite Personal SafeTEA program on Sept. 16. They provided safety tips and on- and off-campus resources to students.

Office of the Dean of Students

- Staff members from across the Division teamed up for National Hazing Prevention Week Sept. 21–25. The Wellness Network’s Hazing Prevention and Education Committee hosted the Healthy Community Building Roundtable; students who attended received credit toward the Pillars of the Forty Acres program. Staff can request workshops and learn more about joining the committee.

- The Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL) is now the Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line (BCCAL). If you have any COVID-19-related questions or want to report COVID-19 concerns regarding students, faculty or staff, please call the recently-expanded BCCAL at 512-232-5050, or submit your COVID-19 questions or concerns online.

Recreational Sports

- Staff handed out 12,000 recommended protective face masks to students, faculty and staff on campus. Safety kits containing masks, hand sanitizer, health literature and other items were distributed on campus this month.

- Watch this brief video to learn what you can expect at your next visit to a RecSports facility. We began a phased reopening of our facilities on Aug. 17, and have extended hours for fall.
• Our team is excited to offer two ways to TeXercise safely this fall. Students and RecSports members with the TeXercise on Campus pass will enjoy modified in-person TeXercise sessions at some of their favorite places on campus. Anyone, including non-UT affiliates, with the TeXercise on Demand pass will have unlimited access to livestream classes. Great option for those working or learning remotely! See photos.
• Intramural Sports are back! Our staff has worked hard to plan an array of in-person events, that provide social distancing, as well as virtual events for those who wish to compete from afar.
• Our development staff are engaging alumni through monthly virtual events including a book club, mileage club for walkers and runners, and virtual TeXercise workouts.

Texas Parents

• Our office will be giving $5,000 to the Student Emergency Fund this year in lieu of awarding the money to student organizations via Texas Parents Student Organization Grants. We are encouraging student leaders to let members of their organizations know to apply next year.
• Instead of this fall, we will recognize a student with the Mike Wacker Award next spring. Due to the changes on campus this fall as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided it would be best to give this award in conjunction with our annual Outstanding Student Awards during the spring semester.

University Health Services

• Continued participation in Proactive Community Testing is critical throughout the fall semester so we can safeguard our vulnerable community members. Testing is quick, painless (saliva-based) and convenient. The weekly schedule is posted on our website and Healthyhorns social media accounts. Please encourage your colleagues and students to get tested regularly.

• Students, faculty and staff can get a flu shot during our annual Flu Shot Campaign by appointment only (to prevent long lines and promote a safe, socially-distanced environment). Clinics are being held in the Texas Union’s Shirley Bird Perry Ballroom through Oct. 23. There will be one clinic at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus on Oct. 16 – staff who live close to this location may visit this clinic. Recommended protective face masks and a “clear to come to campus pass” (obtained if symptom-free after completing the Protect Texas Together app symptom checker) will be
required. Employees with UT Select health insurance who are working remotely may get their flu vaccine at any participating in-network pharmacy or provider with zero deductible or co-pay.

**University Housing and Dining**

- Get your local produce, bread, honey and other goods at the UT Farm Stand on Oct. 7 and 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Jester Plaza. Event will follow social distancing and health guidance.
- Visit our [open dining locations](#). We are following social distancing and health guidance at all our establishments.
- Staff partnered with TX Votes to host the Final Countdown Voter Registration Drive on Sept. 23.

**Fiesta at the Tower**

- Students celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month at Fiesta at the Tower on Sept. 16. The event followed social distancing and health guidance.
- The eighth and largest to-date cohort of Longhorns for a Culturally Competent Campus (LC3) kicked off the 10-week program on Sept. 15.
- We held five resident assistant information sessions virtually for students who want to apply for the 2021–2022 academic year.
- Registered Dietitian Sotear Kuy answered students’ nutrition questions during an [Instagram Story](#) Ask Me Anything session on Sept. 4.
- Check out the latest [Leadership, Innovation, Ventures and Entrepreneurship (L.I.V.E)](#) podcast featuring host Brandon Jones and guest Brittany O’Malley (Counseling and Mental Health Center/University Health Services) on Apple Music, Spotify or Stitcher.

**University Unions**

- This year is Madrigal Dinner’s 40th anniversary, but instead of holding the celebration virtually, Campus Events+Entertainment will push that celebration to Fall 2021. This year the virtual event will be named the “39½ Madrigal,” and be held in November.
- Campus Events+Entertainment will be hosting [Longhorn Kickoff](#) virtually for the UT vs. Oklahoma football game on Oct. 10. Also check out their new [Radio Play](#) premiering on Spotify and YouTube.
- We encourage staff who are on campus to visit our [open restaurants](#). We are following social distancing and health guidance in the Texas Union and William C. Powers, Jr. Student Activity Center. Use [Grubhub’s](#) mobile food pickup for easier access to our food options.
- President Jay Hartzell visited our Food Truck at Gregory Gym on Sept. 24. He also visited the [Texas Union Underground](#) on Aug. 12. During his time as a Longhorn undergraduate, bowling at the Texas Union was one of his favorite activities.
Kevin Ray (right) at the Kindness Cart on the West Mall

- Our Kindness Cart is back rolling around the Forty Acres! We handed out giveaways and snacks to students on the West Mall on Sept. 24.
- We received a Green Fund award that will be used to grow fresh produce in a garden on the Texas Union’s fourth floor patio, to donate to the UT Outpost. Also, a Mini Health Grant will help us support our staff in healthy ways.

Vice President for Student Affairs

- New Division staff will be invited to a virtual New Staff Welcome hosted by Dr. Lilly and Division leadership later this month.
- Our team will also host multiple virtual sessions of True Colors®: Keys to Personal Success in November and December, and will send invitations for this more intimate format.
• Show us how you mask up while you are working at UT Austin, either on campus or remotely! View contest guidelines and enter a photo by Oct. 8.
• Our Texas Talks speaker series for students continues in October and November. Kyle Clark (University Leadership Network) and Ted Gordon (Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost) presented in September.

Chris Burnett at ConstitUTion Day

• Our Twitter ConstitUTion Day trivia contest on Sept. 17 inspired civic engagement and reminded students to register to vote in person or by mail by Oct. 5 for the Nov. 3 general election.

Student Consultant Orientation

• We welcomed 46 new student consultants to our team at an orientation on Sept. 17.
The university’s annual online giving campaign 40 Hours for the Forty Acres raised $7.6M Sept. 15–16. Contact Alma Garcia for questions about the Division totals.

Interim Provost Dan Jaffe, Assistant Vice President Edna Dominguez and Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Soncia Reagins-Lilly at the Division-wide Kickoff

- Thank you for participating in our Division-wide Kickoff on Sept. 9 with Interim Provost Dan Jaffe and Recreational Sports’ CieCie Leonard!

Staff Standouts

Terrance Hines (University Health Services)

Terrance Hines, University Health Services, was recognized in Tribeza’s Austin Under 40 awards.

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Soncia Reagins-Lilly gave a video welcome at Meet the Greeks Sept. 15 and 16, hosted by Sorority and Fraternity Life in the Office of the Dean of Students.

Jenny Walker, Office of the Dean of Students, helped facilitate StopHazing.org’s Hazing Prevention Academy on Sept. 18. The event brought together 24 campuses to discuss and learn about the foundational aspects of hazing prevention.

Staff Shoutouts
These shoutouts are submitted by department communicators. Three per department per month. Please coordinate with your department communicator if you would like to submit a staff member to be featured.

**Travis Hilterbran, Recreational Sports**, was instrumental in ensuring that all venues were thoroughly deep-cleaned prior to reopening, and played a key role in helping to organize the department’s new operational procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Derek Knight** and the IT Team, Recreational Sports, did an outstanding job adapting our processes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including bulk refunds, employment application database, contactless entry. They also developed My RecSports, a digital hub for spaces and programs that require advance reservations, as well as livestream TeXercise classes.

**Q’Anteria Roberson, Recreational Sports**, has played a critical role in our department’s implementation of virtual programming with video production efforts and leveraging all digital platforms even more to keep students engaged in meaningful ways. She led the production efforts of our reopening video and coordinated the editing of 100+ TeXercise videos.