



THE PATRIOT POST

UT TYLER SGA NEWSLETTER



SGA IN MARCH 2020

Since Spring Break, SGA has been working to transition our work online to maintain social distancing and the safety of our students in light of COVID-19.

More than ever before, our senators are working to find creative ways to reach out to students and ensure that your voices are heard. Social media and Canvas have taken the place of face-to-face interactions and student emails. In this time of change, we thank you for sticking with us and continuing to reach out. We are always ready and willing to assist you, even during hard times.

If you are experiencing financial hardship or difficult circumstances, contact our Dean of Students at dos@uttyler.edu for assistance.

What's Inside:

-What SGA achieved in March 2020
pg. 1

-Senator of the month
-Faculty/staff of the month
pg. 3

-Department highlight
pg. 4

-Upcoming events and speakers
-UT Tyler fun facts
pg. 5

-A message from the SGA President
pg. 6





CONTINUATION OF PAGE 1

As far as our meetings, we have continued to meet via Zoom every week so that our organization still serve our student body.

Our recent guests have included President Tidwell, Ona Tolliver (VP of Student Success), Andy Pettee (Dean of Students), Dr. Mirmiran (Provost), and Dr. Swain (AVP of Academic Affairs). Our administration is dedicated to our students and were very receptive, especially during this period of unprecedented change.

They attended our meetings to get direct feedback on what students are struggling with, how faculty are doing with classes, and what has been different/better/worse in the student experience.

Our senate has also been working on passing an updated Constitution and bylaws that will allow us to more effectively represent our student body. The changes we made will allow us to expedite votes and changes, which means that we will be able to evolve and react to keep up with our University.

We have also been preparing for elections, which will happen April 16-17. We want to make sure that our senate is representative of our students, so make sure to run for a position if you're interested or at least vote in your student email!

We can't wait to meet our new senators and get even more work done for our students!
Swoop swoop!

SENATOR OF THE MONTH

Gus Forster

Throughout the pandemic, Senator Forster has worked tirelessly to bridge communication gaps between faculty and students. He has attended all of our general assembly meetings this month and ensured that the concerns and compliments that students have presented to him are heard.

He has asked questions of our administration and gotten answers on how students can continue to get paid, how grades will work, etc. and passed that information on to the students.

Gus, we thank you for all that you've done for our students and will continue to do! You are an exemplary senator, especially in this time of change and fear.



FACULTY/STAFF OF THE MONTH

Lee Johnson

Professor Johnson has spent the beginning part of each of her classes checking on her students, because she understands that students can't learn as well when they're stressed and worried about how they're going to survive.

Professor Johnson has been understanding of extenuating circumstances and continuously made it clear that her first priority is not deadlines, but true lifetime learning.

Thank you for all that you do, Professor Johnson! SGA recognizes your hard work and how much you care about your students.



Department Highlight:

Psychology and Counseling

From Dean Hickey of the College of Education and Psychology:

- CMHC Faculty and Clinical Psych Faculty with students in internship and practicum have been working tirelessly to find alternative sites for students who's original sites shut down due to COVID-19.

- CMHC & Clinical Psych Faculty are connecting with our new Fall 2020 graduate cohorts via ZOOM to answer frequently asked questions and to help get them oriented to their respective programs.

- Dr. Kirby has done two "mock conferences" via ZOOM in her Undergraduate Honors class since they were supposed to present at real conferences this semester.

- Faculty research labs are still functioning and meeting virtually to ensure scientific progress and the student experience are not lost during this pandemic.

- Faculty have leaned on the CEP Mentor Center, one of the college's student success initiatives, to support students they believe may be struggling in their courses.

- Students who are referred by faculty or self-identify as wanting to participate are paired with a trained Graduate Student mentors who use evidence-based assessments to help identify students' barriers to success, make thoughtful university referrals, and provide individualized, ongoing assistance and support throughout the duration of the semester online. The main aim of the Mentor Center is to help improve students' self-efficacy, sense of belonging, and perceived social support. These things are more important now during this era of social distancing than ever before.

- Department Chair Chuck Barke has done a fantastic job of supporting faculty, staff, and student during this time. He has also ensured that the lines of communication stay open so that everyone in the department is informed.



We thank you, everyone in the department of Psychology and Counseling, for doing a fantastic job supporting and teaching your students during this time and always. Keep up the good work!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

- April 15th: General Assembly Meeting

Time: 5:15 pm - 7:15 pm

Location: Zoom (Check UT Tyler SGA Events page)

- April 16-17th: Officer and Senator Elections

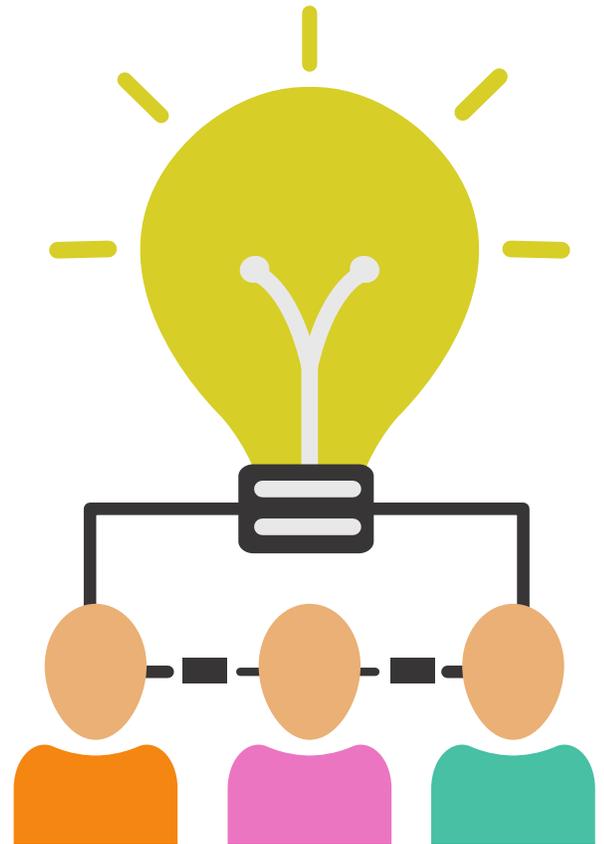
Time: Midnight on the 16th - 4 pm on the 17th

Location: Patriot email

- April 22nd: General Assembly Meeting

Time: 5:15 pm - 7:15 pm

Location: Zoom (Check UT Tyler SGA Events page)



UT TYLER FUN FACTS

- Our original school colors were blue and green (to represent the lake and the trees)

- Our university used to be called Tyler State College and then Texas Eastern University

- There used to be a green house where RBS is now

- Our first national championship was in men's tennis in 2003

A Message from the SGA President

Students of UT Tyler,

I am writing to you in one of the most whirlwind times our nation, community and University has ever experienced. With all prior concerns aside, this is the time where the connections that bond us will be strained the most.

COVID-19 is non-partisan, non-binary, and does not discriminate based on religion, marital status, age, or culture. Know that there is one thing stronger than any virus, that no matter the nation, city, state, ethnicity, gender, religion, or race, will always hold true – that we are all Patriots. With this, be sure to look at the strengths which we possess, and we will surely emerge stronger and more capable.

In this time of struggling, please be respectful of our faculty, who are, like us, thrown into uncharted waters, and who have an immeasurable amount of care for us. Staff, who commit their daily lives to improving ours as students, professionals, and as Patriots. Administration, who are tirelessly operating with the safety of over 10,000 aspiring nurses, business people, engineers, pharmacists, and all others in mind. These people who, in my time as your Student Body President, have proved to me that they want nothing less than success for all of us.

While on-campus classes and events may have stopped, your Student Government will not be held back by COVID-19. Your voices as students will continue to be carried through the practices of the Student Government Association, your fearless Senators and Officers will expand upon the exemplary work they have conducted thus far, and they will take the Student Government Association and Student Body to the highest point imaginable. This, however, cannot be accomplished without you. We as Patriots have an undeniable strength and, together, we will persevere and will soon share our time together once again. Be it for mental health, academic, financial, or housing issues, we are here solely to represent and lift the students up.

Know that I will not rest without representing you with the honor, integrity, and pride, which you elected me for. My mind is already set upon the day we will walk along Harvey Lake, spend countless hours in the Muntz Library and attend lecture aside one another once again. So, be well, drink water, wash those hands, and greet your fellow Patriots with a hearty “Swoop Swoop”.

With
Patriot Pride,

Joshua
E. Menhennett
Class of 2022
Student Government Association President

Comments? Questions?
Suggestions?
Email
sga@uttyler.edu