

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER 2024-2025

PATRIOT PULSE

FOUR FRIENDS

PG. 25 NIGHT IDEAS

**COFFEE WITH
DR. PHILLEY** PG. 3-4

5 REC SPORTS

YOU SHOULD TRY PG. 20

**SOFTBALL'S
CHAMPIONSHIP
CULTURE** PG. 17-18



TALON STUDENT MEDIA

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Over the past two semesters, I've had the immense privilege to work with the Patriot Talon as the magazine editor. As I've worked on the Patriot Pulse, I've taken the opportunity to think about what it really means to be a student here at UT Tyler. One of the biggest tasks I've had over the summer has been to work the New Student Orientation with The Patriot Talon, and it's been an honor to place our magazine in the hands of students who are just like me, and tell them about who we are and what we do. Coming to UT Tyler has changed my life so significantly in the past year, and to be able to share what being a Patriot is all about is a great joy. I sincerely hope you enjoy what this edition has in store!



Karleigh Yancy

Managing Editor, Talon Student Media

Special thanks to:

Nathan Witt, Danny Mogle, Breanna Bolle, Larry Bonilla, Santiago Nuñez, Leigh Meyers, Paulina Mata, Porter Staggers, Anna Arseienko, Lorri Allen, and Dr. Julie Philley

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Coffee with Dr. Philley



Every college student should know the president of their university. In case you don't get the opportunity to sit down for coffee talk with Dr. Philley, here's how ours went:

How long have you been at UT Tyler?

I've been working at either the Health Science Center or the combined campus since 2012.

What is your medical specialty?

Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine!

What is your go-to coffee order?

Instant Folgers which I drink from a mug on my way to work every morning.

Tell us about your family.

I grew up in Overton, the second of five kids. My parents still live in Overton, and my other siblings are also local. My husband grew up in Toronto, Canada and conducts the East Texas Symphony Orchestra. While we don't have children, we have four nieces and eight nephews.

Are you from East Texas?

Yes. I'm from Overton, Texas. I went to Tyler Junior College for one year then headed to Texas Woman's University followed by med school at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston.

What made you pick UT Tyler?

There is huge opportunity for growth at UT Tyler. Being from East Texas, I'm excited about the new opportunities we can provide to the region. Plus, the people are nice.

What is a favorite TV show or movie?

I love anything Star Wars.

What is your favorite meal?

Grilled cheese.

Do you have a favorite quote or mantra that inspires you?

A mentor once told me to focus your time and energy on the people who believe in what you're doing. UT Tyler has an incredibly important mission, and I want to support those who are helping to advance our impact on East Texas.

What is one piece of advice you would give to your college self?

Don't be in a rush to choose your career path. Take time to explore classes that interest you and explore all your options. You never know what will spark your inspiration.

Fill your Memories

Build relationships, enhance your career readiness, and strengthen your resume!

Join a student organization today!

CHECK THEM OUT!



*Photos Courtesy @UTTyler

4 BOOKS

every college student should read

By Larry Bonilla

In college's four years, we are swept into wildly new experiences and places. We are engaging in higher learning and setting pivotal career goals while we deal with emotionally potent situations that push to new grounds. The quick-aced rush of these years dissuades us from reflecting on our experiences, and oftentimes, it is easy to feel alone or even confused about these years that are supposed to be special.

With this list, I want to convince all students here at UT Tyler to read books that can help one find solace in their college experience and to have a better time navigating higher learning. These books are commonly regarded as classic literature, however, don't let that title intimidate you. I understand that in high school many students were forced to read extensive works of classic literature in a limited amount of time, but I promise you that these classics are powerful forms to better understand the human condition and the world around us. Furthermore, these books are highly accessible classics, so even if you are having a reading slump these are easy to jump into.

1. *The Secret History* - Donna Tartt

Tartt's campus novel is the quintessential read for any college student. *The Secret History* follows Richard Pape's transition from a community college in California to Hampden College in Vermont. Far away from what he is familiar with, Pape's transition to a new place resonates with college students who live in dorms, take new jobs, and—especially—find themselves in complicated relationships. The core of the novel revolves around Pape's academic inclination to assimilate into an elite clique of classic student intellectuals. However, once the clique's obsession with their studies takes a new radical form, the group's integrity is called into question. For the most part, *The Secret History* is a mystery-novel (often regarded as an inverted-detective-story). However, I would also regard it as a form of literary-fiction—a grounded telling of the human condition in regards to fitting-in and the glamorization of one's life.

2. *Norwegian Wood* - Haruki Murakami

Murakami's novel could be best understood as an exploration of "nostalgia." The majority of *Norwegian Wood* takes place in 1960s Japan and follows college-student Toru Watanabe; the story is told as Watanabe reflects on his younger years—particularly about his relationships. In Murakami's novel, "nostalgia" is a looming factor that permeates Watanabe as he constantly deals with loss and loneliness. He struggles with finding his identity and making genuine connections with others. He learns that friends come and go and so do romantic interests. The novel also involves experiences that will resonate with college students as they grow up: the odd-jobs, the studies, the dorm life, the friendships, and the atmosphere of a vibrant university. The lesson that can be extracted out of *Norwegian Wood* is learning how to move on and how to make genuine connections with others.

3. *Flowers for Algernon* - Daniel Keyes

With this book choice, we are stepping away from protagonists as college students, however, I strongly believe this book will still resonate with many students either way. Keyes's novel is about a man, Charlie Gordon, born with a low IQ who takes part in a psychological experiment in a university. Told in an epistolary form, reader's watch as Gordon's intelligence increases and eventually decreases. Yet, at the heart of the story, *Flowers for Algernon* is about learning and making sense of human experiences and emotions. Gordon explores his relationships: in his work, his romantic-interests, and his troubled family. The growth that Gordon has can be read as an allegory to students when brought to a new environment and new intellectual experiences. In *Flowers for Algernon*, college students can find a sincere story that expands on themes of intelligence, treatment of disabilities, and self growth.

4. *Stoner* - John Williams

Another quintessential campus novel, *Stoner* by John Williams is a quiet—yet tremendous—story about a college student who grows old as a professor in his university. William Stoner was a farmer's son who had the opportunity to learn agricultural science in the University of Missouri. However, Stoner grows to love literature and graduates with an English degree, and he eventually goes into the graduate program and becomes a member of the faculty. The story is a quaint but thunderous account of a man's mundane life in the university. For college students, it is an excellent form to learn the inner workings of institutions of higher learning. Through Stoner's life, the reader understands the academic tasks of students and professors, and we also get a glimpse of the faculty politics that inform the mechanics of the school.

Okay... Let's Talk Parking

A Brief History

Benjamin Franklin once said, "In this world, nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes." I want to start by saying that wherever you go, college students will always be upset about two things: parking and Wi-Fi. Every college in the nation is trying to figure out better parking. To catch you up to speed, here's everything you need to know about UT Tyler's parking situation.

There's No Perfect Answer

UT Tyler is growing at a record pace, which is a good thing, but it can be hard to keep up with. Over the years, the University has considered a lot of ideas, but they all have their setbacks. Parking garages are a great way to maximize space, but are insanely expensive. State law prevents government funds from being used for parking, so the garage would increase student fees... by a lot. The campus is densely packed and hilly, making the options for parking lot locations slim. There are open areas on the outside of campus that could become a parking lot, but that's not where more parking spaces are needed.

A New Lot

A brand new parking lot will be added this year and is expected to provide about 100 spaces. This lot will be a faculty and staff lot located near the bell tower. It's expected this addition will free up room in parking lots for the Nursing, Biology, Education, Psychology, and Music buildings.

The Problem Isn't Space?

The university investigated our parking problem, and one of the things they found is that scheduling plays a huge role in parking congestion. This year, they will be experimenting with a new class scheduling method that they believe could reduce peak numbers by 10% to 20%. This is a campus-wide effort with a lot of moving pieces, so the University is planning on monitoring it throughout the year to make sure the desired outcome is achieved.

If you want to have your voice heard about parking at UT Tyler, consider visiting a Student Government Association meeting. They have worked closely with the University for years to find an amicable solution.

YOUR RESUME WILL THANK YOU!

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE FROM ONE OF THE MOST AWARDED PROGRAMS IN TEXAS.



GRAPHIC DESIGN VIDEOGRAPHY DIGITAL MARKETING STORYTELLING PHOTOGRAPHY COPY WRITING SOCIAL MEDIA & MORE



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TALONSTUDENTMEDIA.COM

7 IMPORTANT STUDENT RESOURCES

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES (SAR)

If you require accommodations due to a disability impacting your learning, the SAR office is here to assist you. Students can access a variety of services, such as classroom/testing accommodations, interpreters/captionists, resources for pregnant/parenting students, approval for emotional support animals, and additional support options.



STUDENT COUNSELING

The Student Counseling Center offers a variety of no-cost-added services with the goal of supporting your mental health and overall wellness. They offer both online and in-person counseling options. In case of immediate assistance needs, contact the UT Tyler crisis hotline at 903-566-7254 or the national lifeline hotline at 988.



TO FIND OUT MORE...



SCAN HERE!

SAFE WALK

Walking alone can be intimidating, but the UT Tyler Police Department has created a program to ensure students feel safe on campus at any time by providing free police escorts for students and employees to and from parking lots and other on-campus locations. The service is available 24/7.

RAVE PATRIOT GUARDIAN

With this app, you can quickly contact university police via call or text in emergencies, report suspicious activity, and dial 9-1-1 when off campus. Features include a safety timer, GPS location tracking, and the ability to designate friends or family as your guardians.

TITLE IX

Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in education. It protects students from sexual harassment and assault, ensures equal opportunities in academics and sports, and safeguards the rights of pregnant and transgender students. UT Tyler has three Title IX Coordinators who handle complaints and provide support.

PATRIOT PANTRY

The Patriot Pantry is committed to aiding students, staff, faculty, and community members who are experiencing food insecurity. Outside of regular hours, the pantry is accessible for emergency situations, but please ensure it's scheduled at least 24 hours in advance, via email or phone.

UNIVERSITY HEALTH CLINIC (UHC)

The UHC is a collaboration between The UT Tyler Health Science Center and The University of Texas at Tyler and provides quality care for UT Tyler students, faculty, and staff. You're welcome to walk in, but if you prefer, feel free to schedule an appointment by giving the office a call.

By Breanna Bolle



Tips for Online Classes

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Help

By Nathan Witt

A Note Before You Start

If you're not careful, you can let yourself assume online classes are easier than face-to-face. There are a lot of advantages to online courses. They are more flexible and allow you to work at your own pace. Be careful because without the proper skills- yes, skills - you'll have a hard time succeeding.

Here are some tips for success in online classes:

- 1. Be familiar with Canvas:** All the online courses at UT-Tyler use the Canvas LMS. It's like your digital classroom, so learn your way around. The university has a course, Canvas 101, that's available to all students. Before the course starts, poke around and make sure you understand where you can access all your quizzes, discussions, exams, grades, etc.
- 2. Have a clear understanding of what the course expects from you:** Read the syllabus carefully and take notes. Before your first class, you should know the expectations, deadlines, grading criteria, and how the class functions. Not every course is structured the same, and not every canvas page is set up the same.
- 3. Get the app:** Canvas has an app that has everything you need to keep up with your class from your phone. Once you have it, set Canvas Notifications to get announcements, emails, and updates so you get communication from the instructor as soon as they post it. Deadlines change, classes get canceled, and important details are easy to miss.
- 4. Create a schedule and weekly checklist:** The easiest thing to do is procrastinate. Pick a day and time of the week, or multiple, that you sit down and do your coursework. Stick to that schedule and pre-plan when you'll get which assignments done.
- 5. Create study groups and make friends:** Research has shown that students do better when they have a connection to their classmates. Reach out and build a group, talk about assignments, and study for tests.
- 6. Contact your Professor:** Instructors are always happy to help students. Reach out to your instructor and seek clarification or ask questions. The better they know you, the more likely they'll understand if something goes wrong.
- 7. Utilize Resources:** The University provides many resources to students to support their academic success, such as libraries, tutoring, and career services. All these services are accessible online. Successful students utilize the resources available to them.

First Year Experience

Transfer Student Experience

Monthly events for freshman or transfer students, free of charge!

FYE Events!

Transfer Events!

- 8/23 New Student Convocation
- 8/30 First Friday
- 9/2 DIY Planners
- 10/14 DIY Candy Bouquet
- 11/11 DIY Tacky Sweater

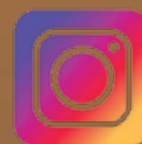
- 8/23 New Student Convocation
- 8/27 Transfer Student Mixer
- 9/17 Bowling Night
- 10/22 Mystery Event
- 11/5 Transfer Dinner

Parent and Family Programs

“Keeping parents and families connected from orientation to graduation”

- Regional events for parents/families of current and future UT Tyler students
- Family Association memberships
- Full time support for parents of UT Tyler students
- Pregnant and parenting student support
- Family Day
- Family Weekend
- Signature yearly events

***Follow us on Instagram to keep up with upcoming events and important updates!**



**uttylernsfp
uttylerpfp**

what's with The Turtle?



by Larry Barrington

Between the University's twin lakes, hugging the pathway that connects the library and administration building, there rests a giant steel turtle. Matted in bronze, it faces northward with an agape jaw and great claws.

Most students have already made an acquaintance with such a creature amidst their time on campus, whether they are heading to study at the library or when making their way to grab lunch from the University Center. However, few know much about this turtle. For a university whose mascot is an eagle, the sculpture begs the question — how and why has such a prehistoric-looking-beast perched itself by Harvey Lake?

Let it be known that our beloved turtle has a name—or rather, this sculpture of a turtle has a title: East Texas Watch Dog. The East Texas Watch Dog is a sculpture created by Texas native Joe Barrington.

According to Barrington's website, his pieces are inspired from life in rural Texas and Throckmorton, Texas, the town where he was born. The people, animals, and folklore of the region are iconic qualities of the story he intends to share with viewers. Barrington's preferred method of creating art and sculptures are in steel, whether it is cutting, welding, or bending the metal.

In looking for more information on the East Texas Watch Dog, I reached out to Barrington through email to inquire further on the sculpture. He graciously provided a response soon after. Barrington states that the East Texas Watch Dog

was included in one of the earliest outdoor shows he participated in. According to the Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS), this show was a part of the Outdoor Sculpture Invitational in 1991 at UT Tyler.

Barrington said that, after the installation, "I received a call from the University President [the late Dr. Hamm at the time]." In the phone call, Dr. Hamm took an interest in the piece and wanted to purchase the East Texas Watch Dog for the campus.

"It became one of my early public pieces and has been at its present location ever since," Barrington said. The East Texas Watch Dog was part of a series of Texas animals Barrington created and still is building today. The animals in his works are evocative of the animals he is drawn to, such as roadrunners, ravens, horned lizards, alligators, garfish, catfish, and others. Barrington said that "the pieces are created out of recycled steel from the Texas Oilfield."

In regards to the name of the turtle, Barrington says "humor frequently shows up in my work. In this case it's with the title, East Texas Watch Dog."

In Barrington's craft of sculpting iconic features of his memory of Texas, he created our beloved snapping turtle, the East Texas Watch Dog. So now, whenever someone references "that turtle by Harvey Lake," you can correct them and say, "It has a name: it's the East Texas Watch Dog!"

Honors College:

What is it?

by Anna Arseienko

It has been a year since the Honors Program at UT Tyler transformed into an esteemed Honors College, and what a wonderful journey it has been! Every day, the Honors community continues to grow stronger, commitment to excellence deepens, and impact on campus becomes more pronounced.

Becoming a college has truly uplifted our presence within the university. Now recognized as a distinct entity, the Honors College directly engages in university leadership events and collaborates with other deans. This recognition not only affirms the importance of the work that has been done but also creates avenues for increased resources and opportunities for growth. Starting with a cohort of 20 students in 2009, Honors College hopes to grow to 300 students by the fall of 2025.



Everything has been moved to a new academic space, currently, we are much more a part of the academic side of UT Tyler. Becoming a college has signified something deeper within the community, it showed a new perspective to strive for Honors students. As Dr. Paul Streufert, dean of Honors College, mentions: "The Honors College values curiosity and hard work, much more than simply high achievement." Here, it is not about being extraordinarily smart; it is about being willing to dive into the unknown, being open-minded, being able to ask tough questions, and flourishing in the face of hardships.

Our community is strongly built on the foundation of engagement and collaboration. We are a collective of students, faculty, and staff who are

ready to roll up our sleeves and make a difference. Together, we strive to create an environment where every member feels seen, heard, and supported. From academic pursuits to extracurricular activities, everyone is in this together, making the experience in the university richer and more rewarding.

Looking back on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for every member of the Honors College family. Students' dedication, passion, and enthusiasm are what make this community truly exceptional. Together, we will continue to elevate the Honors College experience at UT Tyler. Go Patriots!



WHAT IS ESPORTS?

By Michael Bald

Students are leaning toward the monitors, laser focused. Their fingers move like striking snakes on their keyboards. Though they are in a small, tightly knit room, they still shout at each other like people in the New York Stock Exchange. It's all fun and games, though. This is just regular bantering among the players of the eSports team at the University of Texas at Tyler.

"A lot of people don't think of Tyler, Texas, as having a lot of gaming talent," said Ashley Daniel, the Esports Coordinator. The other side of the program is the eSports Collegiate Management Team. "They are amazing. We wouldn't be able to run without them," Daniel said. "So, with our ECMT, we have directors for each game, like 'Valorant,' 'Overwatch,' all that good stuff. And they help run pretty much every facet of the program, which I think is just amazing because I know in traditional sports a lot of growth and development happens there, but in eSports, there's a greater opportunity for personal growth because of the hands-on nature of it."

As for Daniel, she wants people to tell everyone here about eSports, if they're passionate about it. "Tell everyone you know how much you love eSports," Daniel said. "Tell your faculty. Tell the president. Tell your dean of your building. Tell anyone."



IF YOU LOVE ESPORTS AND WANT TO GET INVOLVED, JOIN THEIR DISCORD AND GET TO KNOW THE COMMUNITY!

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UT TYLER
ESPORTS



Photo by NCAA.com

SOFTBALL'S CHAMPIONSHIP CULTURE

By Nathan Witt

UT Tyler's softball team waited three years to be able to compete for a national championship. Once they got the chance, they wasted no time.

"The secret recipe is the culture," said head coach Mike Reed. Since Coach Reed started the softball program in 2003 the Patriots have won 7 conference championships, a Division III National Championship in 2016, and a Division II National Championship in 2024. Advancing to a higher division requires a 3 year waiting period before a team is allowed to compete for a national title. The team put that time to good use. UT Tyler is one of a shrinking number of college teams that still make extra-effort plays like diving. The Patriots claim that their willingness to do whatever it takes is why they're so successful. "We try to do the old school way of hard work and doing it right," said Coach Reed. "It's not about what's at the top of the mountain. We truly spend our time talking about how we're going to take each step."

"People call it the off season, but that's really when we put in the hardest work,"
- Sam Schott, Senior

The Patriots are already gearing up for a 2025 run. The big trophy is nothing more than confirmation their old school culture really does what it promises. "It was just a relief off your shoulders that all that hard work did pay off," says Schott. The 2024 National Championship win came from a culture 20 years in the making. Schott said, "It wasn't just our [win], it was the hundred other alumni that came before us and put in the hard work too."

2024 Record
58-8

WWWWWW
 WWWWWW
 WWWWWW LL
 WWWWWW LL
 WWWWWW LL
 WWWWWW LL

The Patriots have never ended a season with a negative win-loss ratio. Coach Reed has a career success rate of 83.5%. He said they've never focused on the titles or accolades. "Each year the journey starts over, you start at the bottom of the mountain and focus on one step at a time," said Coach Reed.

There's more to winning than talent, he said. "Good players, that's half of the recipe." The other half is the mentality they all share to perform at their highest level. As the UT Tyler softball team looks towards the future, that's all they're thinking about. "You're trying to create that hunger again," said Coach Reed. "We're trying to make sure that every single day our process is as good as it can be, and we're doing it the right way."



Photo by Lang White

There was a sense that this past year's National Championship was simply a natural outcome from the hard work and effort. Schott said, "When you work that hard you can just come out with confidence."

According to Schott, Coach Reed, and the UT Tyler Patriot Softball Team- hard work, discipline, hunger, unity and sacrifice are the ingredients to a championship culture. From the looks of it, they might be right.



Photo by Lang White



Who Are We?

Patriot Productions, or P2, is UT Tyler's Student Campus Activities Board, focused on creating enriching experiences for students. Through leadership opportunities and a welcoming community, P2 encourages personal growth and exploration of new interests, preparing students for successful futures.

Why Should You Join?

Join P2, where exciting events and leadership opportunities await! Whether you're craving unforgettable experiences or seeking to develop essential skills for the future, P2 has something for you. Connect with a community of like-minded individuals, explore new interests, and leave your legacy on campus!

How to Join?

1. Join P2 on Patriots Engage
2. Join P2 General Member Flare group chat to stay informed.
3. Follow Patriot Productions and Campus Activities on Instagram.
4. Attend monthly Patriot Production meetings.



Past P2 Events

- Bingo
- Paint & Sip
- Dodgeball
- Silent Disco
- Video Game Tournaments
- Nerd Night
- Nerf Wars
- Many more!!

Scan For More Info!



5 REC SPORTS ACTIVITIES YOU SHOULD TRY

By Breanna Bolle

Looking for ways to get your body moving this semester? The Herrington Patriot Center (HPC) has an array of different recreational sports you can join for free!

VOLLEYBALL

INTRAMURAL // Join an intramural volleyball team by signing up on the UT Tyler Rec Sports website. There is a men's, women's, and CoRec option for the sand volleyball league.

FLAG FOOTBALL

INTRAMURAL // Join an intramural flag football team by signing up on the UT Tyler Rec Sports website. There is a men's 4v4, women's 4v4, and a CoRec 5v5 option for the flag football league.

TAEKWONDO

GROUP FITNESS CLASS // Taekwondo develops strength, speed, balance, flexibility, stamina and self-confidence. This class is for all levels of fitness and includes the teaching of blocks, kicks, punches and other strikes; forms (poomsae); sparring (noncontact); and mental discipline. Beginners should contact Master Wahlrab: awahlrab@uttyler.edu.

DISC GOLF

INTRAMURAL // Join an intramural disc golf team by signing up on the UT Tyler Rec Sports website. The campus disc golf course features 18 holes, with the first hole starting just below the tennis courts, behind the HPC. You can check out discs for free at the HPC front desk.



YOGA

GROUP FITNESS CLASS // This class is taught using the format of Vinyasa Yoga. It is a type of yoga characterized by stringing postures together so that you move from one to another, seamlessly, using breath. Commonly referred to as "flow" yoga. Yoga helps to develop a more balanced body as well as prevent repetitive motion injuries that can happen if you are always doing the same thing every day.

DISC GOLF MAP

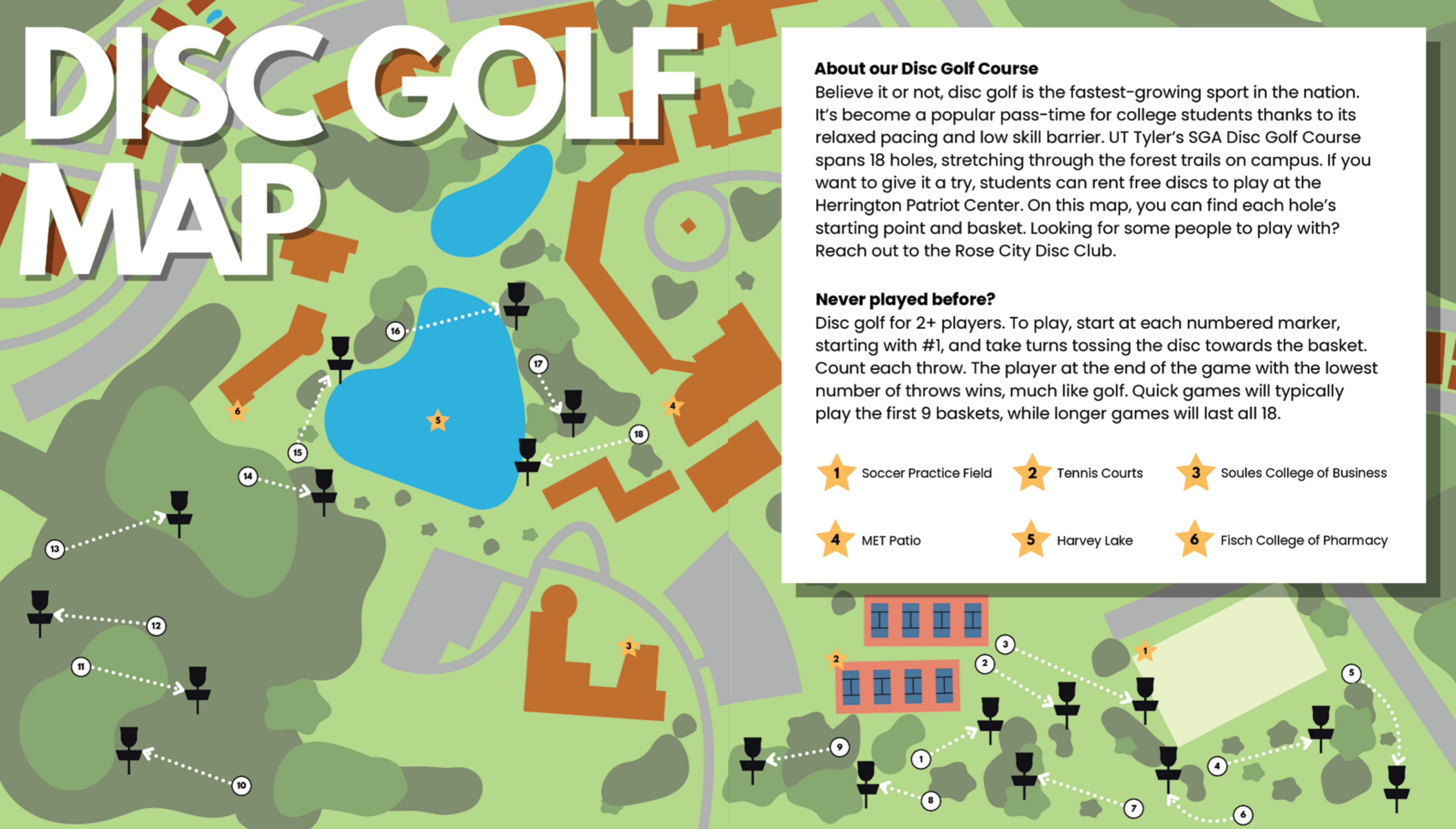
About our Disc Golf Course

Believe it or not, disc golf is the fastest-growing sport in the nation. It's become a popular pass-time for college students thanks to its relaxed pacing and low skill barrier. UT Tyler's SGA Disc Golf Course spans 18 holes, stretching through the forest trails on campus. If you want to give it a try, students can rent free discs to play at the Herrington Patriot Center. On this map, you can find each hole's starting point and basket. Looking for some people to play with? Reach out to the Rose City Disc Club.

Never played before?

Disc golf for 2+ players. To play, start at each numbered marker, starting with #1, and take turns tossing the disc towards the basket. Count each throw. The player at the end of the game with the lowest number of throws wins, much like golf. Quick games will typically play the first 9 baskets, while longer games will last all 18.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Soccer Practice Field | 2 Tennis Courts | 3 Soules College of Business |
| 4 MET Patio | 5 Harvey Lake | 6 Fisch College of Pharmacy |



KEY:

- Building
- Road
- Trees
- Water
- Basket
- Starting Marker
- Place of Interest

New Student Survival Guide

Join an organization and obtain a leadership position to gain leadership experience, make connections and get involved on campus!

Going to events can help you meet people with similar interests and is a great way to create a life outside of classes!

Attending athletic events helps you feel more connected to your school because you are contributing to school spirit!

Patriots Engage is an amazing resource for students to stay connected to campus!

***Follow us on Instagram to keep up with upcoming events and important updates!**



TYLER'S BLOOM CALENDAR

By Nathan Witt



Tyler is the Rose Capital of America- a title that is embraced fully. However, roses aren't the only thing growing in the city. Tyler blooms year-long with various flowers, berries, fruits, and vegetables. Use this calendar to plan your trip to one of Tyler's farmers markets, tour the world-famous Rose Garden, or pick your own snack at Tyler Berry Farm.

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| JAN Pines Hollies | FEB Tulips Narcissus | MAR Azaleas Bluebonnets Daffodils Dogwoods Snowflakes Tulips Wisteria | APR Azaleas Bluebonnets Dogwoods Roses Wisteria |
| MAY Blueberries Lilies Onions Pentas Strawberries Sunflowers Tomatoes Watermelon Zinnias | JUN Blueberries Canna Lilies Crape Myrtles Onions Pentas Roses Strawberries Sunflowers | JUL Butterfly Weed Okra Peaches Peas Periwinkle | AUG Crape Myrtles Lantana Okra Onions Peas Periwinkles Zinnias |
| SEP Butterfly Weed Crape Myrtles Pumpkins Roses Spider Lily Lycoris | OCT Dianthus Pansies Pumpkins Roses | NOV Dianthus Fraser Fir Trees Japanese Maples Pansies Red Maples Pine Trees | DEC Hollies Paperwhites Pine Trees |

4 Friends Night Ideas

FINALLY, everyone has the same afternoon open and some money to spend. You're so close to a friend's night; don't fumble now. It can be hard to find something to do that's affordable, nearby, and the whole group will like. Here are four "Friends Night" ideas that will make it out of the group chat.



1 Rose City Comedy

Local comedy is hit or miss, but that's half the fun. This hole-in-the-wall venue is perfect for a chill, intimate night with close friends. Show tickets are relatively cheap and almost always BYOB.



2 Time Square Grand Slam

This is for the friend group that never agrees on anything. TSGS has bowling, arcade games, a movie theater, laser tag, VR, a ropes course, a full restaurant, and a bar. It's easy to spend all night at TSGS, but be careful; the bill can sneak up on you.



3 Caldwell Zoo

The Caldwell Zoo is one of the most wholesome experiences you can have in Tyler. For a surprisingly affordable price, nothing beats walking around with all the homies and interacting with unique animals.



4 Bricks & Minifigs

It's time to rebuild the crew. At Bricks & Minifigs, you can create a custom Lego figure for yourself or your friends. Challenge your squad to all create each other and see what kind of results you get!

Photos sourced from business' websites

SOME CAMPUS ACTIVITIES YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!



Scan Here For More Info!

Homecoming

Homecoming is a week full of events and opportunities for students to experience our campus traditions. Some traditions you can enjoy during this week are our BBQ Kick-Off, the annual Fireworks Show over Harvey Lake, and our MET Gala, where we announce Mr. & Miss UT Tyler. Be sure to check out the UT Tyler website for the full schedule!



Swoopsation

If you're new to UT Tyler and want to know how to get involved, Swoopsation is the perfect event for you! Swoop Station is a large showcase event during our welcome week, Patriot Palooza, where you can meet our student orgs and departments here on campus.



Chili Cook-Off

Being a 20 year long tradition, the Chili Cook-Off is always an anticipated event during our Patriot Days festival here on campus. Student organizations and campus departments sign up to compete for the Chuck Wagon Trophy. If you're not competing, we still want to invite you and your friends to come hang out and try some of the amazing chili!



Tailgates

Bring your school spirit to the tailgates before our athletic games happening throughout the school year. Enjoy some food, and activities, and get into the school spirit before attending the games to cheer on our student-athletes.



Patriot Palooza

Patriot Palooza is UT Tyler's Welcome Week! There are many events to attend during the first week of our Fall and Spring semesters. At these events, we welcome new and returning faces with free swag, activities, and food! Be sure to check social media to stay up to date with everything that is happening!



MEET THE GREEKS

NINE CHAPTERS.

FOUR COUNCILS.

ONE COMMUNITY.



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OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE TO Tyler, Texas

Tyler Berry Farms: The Ultimate Pick-Me-Up

Picking berries at Tyler Berry Farms checks all the boxes. It's a unique way to enjoy the weather, you save yourself a shopping trip, and you have the peace of mind of knowing exactly where your food comes from. Depending on the season, the farm grows strawberries and blueberries for your picking pleasure. Strawberries are from April to May and blueberries are from June to July. Baskets are sold for your berry haul, but feel free to bring your own basket, as well. If you've filled up your basket but can't wait to get home, there are picnic tables so you can enjoy your pickings right there on the farm. Some refreshments and snacks are available for purchase, but you're welcome to bring a lunch of your own. In addition to berries, you can also pick sunflowers. An excellent addition to your berry bounty.



A Holiday Adventure Awaits At Plantation Pines

Right next door to Tyler Berry Farms is Plantation Pines Christmas Tree Farm, where you can bring the entire family to pick out and cut down your very own Christmas tree. Sure, you could get your Christmas tree at the store or online, but that's no fun. Picking out your own makes the process of getting a Christmas tree part of the holiday experience. If you'd prefer the day to be heavier on the relaxation and lighter on the manual labor, you can simply pick your tree and have the farm workers cut it down for you. Afterward, enjoy complimentary coffee, hot chocolate, and snacks around a campfire. Visit the gift shop for handmade items, fresh wreathes, and more kits. Outside of the Christmas season, the farm allows for picking tulips in the spring and pumpkins in the fall. Hayrides are available year-round and be sure to keep an eye out for any farm animals.

Explore The Great Outdoors At Tyler State Park

One of the more traditional ways to get outdoors in Tyler is to visit Tyler State Park, home to a 64-acre pond, 100-foot-tall trees, and 13 miles of trails. Whether you want to go fishing, hiking, camping, swimming, or biking, it's easy to lose track of time at the park. With so much to do, it can be difficult to know where to start. We recommend taking a stroll down Whispering Pines Nature Trail, which was laid out by the Civilian Conservation Corps over 70 years ago. Ending the day at the pond catching perch, catfish, and bass is a perfect way to wind down. You're free to bring your own boat, but the Texas State Park Store provides canoes, paddleboards, and johnboats for rent.



Refreshing Lakes And Relaxing Strolls

There's nothing like a warm day to make you want to dive into the nearest body of water. Tyler has a couple of great options for doing just that. Lake Tyler and Lake Palestine are both popular spots for fishing, boating, water skiing, camping, and swimming. There are even hiking options around the lakes if you'd prefer to remain dry. Speaking of hiking, it doesn't get much more scenic than the Tyler Azalea Trail, more than 10 miles of azaleas, tulips, wisteria, dogwood, and more. From March 22nd to April 8th, residential gardens and historic homes become an urban bouquet you can dive right into!

Stop And Smell The Roses At The Tyler Rose Garden

If roses are more your speed, you just might break the sound barrier at the Tyler Rose Garden. It's 14 acres of more than 300 rose varieties, spread out across 600 beds and thousands of bushes. The garden is open year-round, but peak bloom seasons are in October and May. Within the garden are several special areas, each with their own unique style. Among them are the Idea Garden, Heritage Garden, and the camelia and day lily collections. After you've explored the gardens, visit the Tyler Rose Museum to learn about the story of Tyler's rose-growing industry and the Texas Rose Festival.



*Tyler Is The Gateway
To The Texas Outdoors!*

Eat Local

One of Tyler's top tourism drivers is our local restaurants and bars. If you're in Tyler, you should eat something you can only get here. We've put together a tier list based on price to help you decide your next meal. Each restaurant has a QR code that takes you straight to their website.

by Nathan Witt

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Restaurant at Kiepersol

Both elegant and rustic, Kiepersol sits near vineyards and an award-winning winery east of Bullard. Top-dollar selections include lobster tails.



The Grove

Housed on a renovated old farm, The Grove's menu is filled with farm-to-table cuisine. Go for the outdoor seating and the branzino and scallops.



Prime 102

The shiny marble and opulent art deco furnishings pay homage to the restaurant's origins as a bank during Tyler's oil boom era. The steak-heavy menu includes a 14-oz. New York strip.



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Bernard Mediterranean Restaurant

This upscale restaurant serves a variety of flavorful French, Spanish and Italian-inspired dishes. The filet mignon Bearnaise is served on a bed of crisp onions with Bearnaise sauce.



Villa Montez

The owners say their mother passed down her classic Mexican recipes and took inspiration from other cultures to create new dishes on the menu.



ETX Brew Company

Yes, they serve wings, burgers and chicken, but what really draws the crowds to this brewpub is its large selection of hand-crafted beers. How about the 1846 IPA for starters.

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Go Fish Japanese Kitchen

With its poke bowls and seemingly endless combination of rolls, Go Fish bills itself as Asian + Latin cuisine "like you've never seen before." Try the sushi burritos.

Stanley's Famous Pit Barbecue

There's a good reason that Stanley's makes the list of the state's best BBQ joints. It's Mother Clucker sandwich may be the star on the menu. You can buy the spicy sauces to take home.

Ruby's Mexican Restaurant

If you're looking for authentic Mexican cuisine, this is the place to go. The large selections include platters feature enchiladas, street tacos, chicken and quesadillas.

RHA RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION



MAKE THE HALLS A HOME

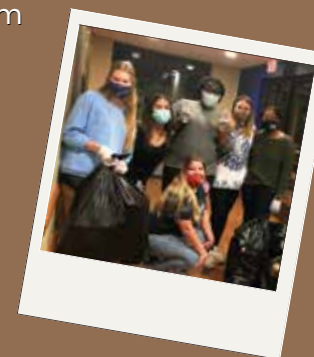
Residence Hall Association (RHA) plays a crucial role in enhancing the on-campus living experience for first-year students by fostering a sense of community and belonging.

RHA provides leadership opportunities for students, allowing them to develop skills in program development, community service, event marketing, and networking with peers at conferences.

Joining RHA offers an opportunity for students to get first-hand information regarding housing related initiatives and offer feedback.

First-year students benefit from programs like the First Year Experience (FYE), which is designed to help them connect, grow, and learn within their residential community.

Volunteering within RHA can empower students to represent their peers in decisions affecting their residence halls, contributing to a more welcoming and responsive living environment.



Join RHA Today!

Contact RHA@uttyler.edu for interest and look out for Residence Hall Association Town Hall Meetings for in-person interest and involvement opportunities.

Be a REAL Influencer



**Be a voice for your peers, plan events,
strengthen your leadership skills, and
leave your mark on UT Tyler**

FOLLOW US



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