

# STUDENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

The Division of Student Affairs Quarterly Newsletter



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN STUDENT AFFAIRS

### WRITTEN BY STAFF

Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Cynthia Polk-Johnson, hosted a "Cookies and Conversation with PoJo" on November 15 in the newly remodeled Noble Cody Suite Classroom. The event gave Vice President Polk-Johnson a chance to discuss key issues facing the Division of Student Affairs with student leaders.

Student leaders received personal invitations to attend this forum, where they were encouraged to share their thoughts and feedback regarding campus life and the student experience with Dr. Polk-Johnson and members of her executive leadership team. Engaging and thought-provoking discussions took place, and student leaders voiced appreciation for the opportunity to share their experiences with the VP. Dr. Polk-Johnson looks forward to more lively and insightful conversations with student leaders as the "Cookies & Conversations" series continues in the spring semester.



# ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION SHINES

WRITTEN BY  
DR. CHESTER GOAD

The Accessible Education Center (AEC) held a number of access and disability-related events this fall. During the month of September, a series of Brown Bag sessions were held covering a variety of topics including AEC 101, faculty support, and the differences between accommodation and access. In addition to these seminars, the AEC's Golden Eagle Film Festival was held in October which featured films with disability-related cultural perspectives, such as the academy award nominated films "Crip Camp" and "The Peanut Butter Falcon."

The highlight of the semester was the "Diverse Voices" collaboration with the College of Music for Center Stage Events. The speaker for the events was Dr. Ju Hyeon Han. Dr. Han is a South Korean born Soprano who grew up in New Zealand. The College of Music and AEC hosted two disability inclusion in higher education lectures, one in the morning and one in evening but both titled "Success without Barriers." The lectures focused on Han's experiences as a blind student and employee navigating the higher education job market, ensuring disabled students' success in a university setting, hiring and supporting faculty with disabilities, and how to make university campuses fully inclusive.

The AEC continues to shed light on disability-related access and inclusion through educational and cultural events and collaborations. If your office would like to collaborate with the AEC please reach out via email: [disability@tntech.edu](mailto:disability@tntech.edu).

**GOLDEN EAGLE FILM FESTIVAL**  
OCTOBER 4, 18, 25 | 8-11 P.M.

**OCTOBER 4**  
**THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON**  
HOLLYWOOD CRITICS WINNER 2019  
Shia LaBeouf  
After running away from a residential nursing home to pursue his dream of becoming a pro wrestler, a man who has Down syndrome befriends an outlaw who becomes his coach and ally.

**OCTOBER 18**  
**CRIP CAMP**  
OSCAR NOMINEE BEST DOCUMENTARY 2022  
Judy Heumann  
Down the road from Woodstock, a revolution blossomed at a ramshackle summer camp for teenagers with disabilities, transforming their lives and igniting a landmark movement.

**OCTOBER 25**  
**STRONGER**  
CRITICS CHOICE & HOLLYWOOD FILM AWARD 2018  
Jake Gyllenhaal  
True story of an ordinary man who captured the hearts of his city and the world to become a legend of hope after surviving the 2001 Boston Marathon bombing.

ALL SHOWINGS TAKE PLACE IN STONECIPHER 113  
**LET'S HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT DISABILITY REPRESENTATION IN FILM AND IN GENERAL.**

*The AEC strives to create an inclusive and accessible environment for our programs, services and events. If you have a specific accommodation request or access concern regarding this particular event, we invite you to reach out to us at [disability@tntech.edu](mailto:disability@tntech.edu).*



# INTRAMURAL CHANGES

WRITTEN BY  
SPENCER RYAN

This Fall semester, the department of Intramural Sports made some changes to their normal operations that have shown remarkable success so far. Three new event categories were created, including Floorball, Teqball, and an art competition. These new categories will now be a part of the regular Fall lineup. The additions are part of the continuous efforts to ensure that there is always something for every student to take part in through Intramurals.

Also, this semester some leagues were able to play on Friday and Sunday nights instead of the usual Monday and Thursday which created a 25% increase in total participation. These modifications are a testimony to the diligence of the department of Intramural Sports and their commitment to the students of Tennessee Tech.



# COUNSELING CENTER AWARDED FUNDING

WRITTEN BY  
DR. CHRISTINA MICK

On September 12, 2022, the counseling center was awarded prevention funding of \$3,650 for expenses related to prevention plan strategies for the 2022-2023 academic year from CHASCO. This includes \$2,250 toward general AOD prevention as well as \$1,400 toward marijuana cannabis prevention. CHASCO is the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Campus Community. This organization addresses alcohol, drug, and violence prevention issues on Tennessee's campuses by providing consultation, training, research support, and technical assistance.



# INTRAMURALS RETREAT FOSTERS LEADERSHIP

WRITTEN BY  
SPENCER RYAN

In early August, the department of Intramural Sports hosted a retreat for their student leaders to encourage group bonding and further develop the leadership skills of these students in preparation for the upcoming Fall season. Retreats like this one and other outings that the department organizes are part of their initiative to provide students of Tennessee Tech with the opportunity to foster skills in conflict resolution, leadership, and the ability to maintain positive professional relationships to better prepare them for their careers.

It is not just these events where such efforts are conducted but also, or even mainly, through the ten leadership and fifty-five other student employee positions that make up the Intramurals' student employment team. Student leaders are those who take on the position of either Student Lead, Game Supervisor, or Head Official in which they oversee an assigned field. Whereas the student employees, that fall into the category of Program Assistants or Officials, will directly supervise and complete their own tasks for individual games. This setup not only ensures that Intramural games are run successfully but also helps those students develop transferable management skills.

The work of Intramurals is evident in the department's dedication to not only supplying students with an authentic college experience but also securing their success outside of it. Intramurals is always hiring through Handshake for those interested in working in this department. Also, do not forget that if you are wanting to participate in the Spring semester Intramural Sports registration begins January 9th.



# COUNSELORS RECEIVE QPR CERTIFICATION

WRITTEN BY  
DR. CHRISTINA MICK

Over the summer, three counseling center professional staff members, Ben Higgins, Ravi Patel, and Brittney Phillips, received certification as Question, Persuade, Refer Gatekeeper Instructors. QPR is a Suicidal Thinking, Behavior, Attempts prevention training for participants to be able to recognize the warning signs of Suicidal Thinking, Behavior, Attempts so that they can then question, persuade, and refer people at risk for help. Please contact the counseling center if you would like to schedule training for your unit.



# HEALTH SERVICES EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

WRITTEN BY  
LEIGH ANN RAY

This fall, Health Services provided an educational outreach session in the RUC surrounding backpack safety. Students had the opportunity to weigh their backpacks on a scale to see how much they weighed, and were, then, provided education around the proper way to carry a backpack to minimize strain on the back. Another outreach session showed the amount of sugar in everyday drinks. It demonstrated healthier choices to minimize sugar consumption.



# HOLLYWOOD HOMECOMING EVENTS

WRITTEN BY  
STAFF

This year's Fall Homecoming was a memorable one with its enjoyable Hollywood theme and noteworthy achievements. In keeping with tradition, Ben Ebel and Savannah Griffin were crowned as Mr. And Ms. Tennessee Tech during the Homecoming Football game. The Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles Football team, then, joined them in victory as they won the game. The achievements of the week continued with the Food Pantry whose crowdfunding between student organizations tripled their original goal. Student Affairs would like to recognize the Department of Student Engagement for all their arduous work to make Homecoming the success that it was. Additionally, Student Affairs got involved in the festivities through the Dean of students, Dr. Katherine Aikens, who was a part of the committee to judge the Homecoming parade floats. Thank you to all the departments and groups who made Fall 2022 Homecoming such a success!



[Photo courtesy of Lily Davis]

# HEALTH SERVICES POP-UP CLINICS

WRITTEN BY  
LEIGH ANN RAY

In an effort to help keep TTU's campus community safe and healthy, TTU's Health Services provided 3 pop-up clinics, "Vax for Snacks", for COVID-19 vaccinations in various public spaces such as the RUC and two residential hall communities.

These clinics were held in early fall in an attempt to reach students, faculty and staff who wished to be vaccinated at the start of the semester. COVID-19 primary series vaccinations, COVID-19 booster vaccinations and flu shots are available daily in the Health Services Clinics.



# ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CSAM

The Office of Student Affairs and Student Engagement celebrated Careers in Student Affairs Month with a series of events focused on informing and educating Tennessee Tech students on careers in Student Affairs. The kickoff event was an Ice cream social, open to all students, that generated a lot of interest for the other events. CSAM continued with a breakfast that allowed attendees to explore their interest in careers within student affairs or higher education. The campaign ended with a luncheon that focused on helping students hone their skillset in order to further pursue a career in higher education. Each of these events truly encapsulated the overall theme for this year, “Charting the future of Student Affairs.” Thank you again to all those who participated and made CSAM happen this year!



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