

ttu

parents' association
fall 2010

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➤ Fall is Here

Greetings TTUPA members! With a little over two weeks left of classes, TTU is wrapping up an eventful semester. From a record enrollment, to the opening of a new state-of-the-art residential hall, to hosting the Gubernatorial Debate, another successful semester for Tech has come and gone. TTUPA has been busy this fall as well. We've elected a new chairperson and added a few new members to the Board of Trustees. Plans are well underway for our annual Parent and Family Weekend, which will be held in February 2011. With a men's and women's home basketball game that weekend, you don't want to miss out. The Office of Student Orientation is gearing up and starting to plan for another summer of SOAR, and we're excited to start training our new Student Orientation Assistants. We have exciting new initiatives for our Parents' Association, and we continue to ask all parents for support for TTU students, faculty and staff!




NEW SOAs Every fall semester the Office of Student Orientation interviews and hires new Student Orientation Assistants (SOAs) for the upcoming summer SOAR season. Over the course of two days the Orientation Office staff interviewed over 50 applicants and hired 25 new SOAs. Training for the new orientation assistants will begin in January with a three-day retreat in Crossville, Tennessee. The SOAs will perform team-building exercises, begin brainstorming ideas for new freshman activities, and learn to work together. SOAs will continue to train every Wednesday throughout the Spring semester.

Administrator Profiles

Athletic Director Mark Wilson




 With football season coming to a close and basketball gearing up for another eventful season, Mark Wilson, Tennessee Tech's Athletic Director, is staying busy. Wilson came to Tech in July 2004 and his first six years have been highlighted by vision, energy, and enthusiasm. Wilson has achieved several milestone accomplishments for the TTU Athletics Department including enhanced facilities and fund raising, high profile staff additions, and compliance and academic success. Wilson came to Tech from Ohio University. In the midst of his busy schedule, Amanda Miller, Student Coordinator for Parent and Family Programs, decided to interview Wilson to learn a bit more about our university's athletic director. (continued on page 3)



TTU is Social

Parents... We know that your college student(s) is not the only one now on Facebook and Twitter. TTU has joined the social scene and what better way to help stay up-to-date with university events, news, and other information than "following" TTUNews on Twitter and "liking" Tennessee Tech University on Facebook. This is simple and easy to do. For Twitter, login (or sign up) at www.twitter.com and type "TTUNews" in the search box; then click "Follow." On Facebook, login (or sign up) at www.facebook.com and type "Tennessee Tech University" in the search box; then click the "Like" button. Now each time you login to either social network you will see updates from TTU in your news feed. It is a convenient way to stay connected with the university and keep in touch with your students.



Mark Wilson (continued from page 2)

[AM]: Why did you choose the career of an Athletic Director?

[MW]: Growing up I didn't dream of being an athletic director. However, throughout my undergraduate and graduate work, I got involved with the athletic department at the University of Massachusetts. After helping with several different departments within athletics I realized that I could really enjoy a career being involved with athletes and the athletic staff.

[AM]: What made you want to come to Tech?

[MW]: I had the pleasure of beginning to work for Tech in the summer of 2004. I came because of the great job opportunity and the chance to work with the great staff and help make improvements to the Athletic Department.

[AM]: Why do you think Tech is good for students and athletes alike?

[MW]: First off, Tech is a wonderful school that offers a great education. Athletes and non-athletes alike can be guaranteed a satisfying education that will prepare them for their career. Student athletes have the great opportunity to play for coaches who are caring and challenge them every day. They get the chance to compete in the OVC Conference and play for the awesome Golden Eagles.

[AM]: What are some ways that you and the coaches ensure that athletes are making great strides in academic achievement?

[MW]: Athletes are strongly encouraged to be on a first-name basis with their professors. They must attend class and participate in study hall sessions. Also, athletes have access to tutors, if needed. Any athlete that excels academically is included on the Athletic Director's Honor Roll list.

[AM]: With Parents' Day in the Spring this year, what is the Athletics Department doing to prepare for the big day?

[MW]: We are very excited to be having Parent's Day in the Spring and give parents the chance to experience a Golden Eagle basketball game. We are working with our marketing department to try to have parent-student promotions for that weekend. We hope plenty of families come with their students and support our men's and women's basketball team.

[AM]: Mr. Wilson, thank you so much for your time. I really appreciate your time and I'm sure parents will enjoy getting to know more about our athletics program and our Athletic Director.

[MW]: Of course! Please let us know if there's anything else we can help you all with!

TTUPA

Chairperson Greer Carr

At our TTUPA Board of Trustees Oct. 9, 2010, meeting, Greer Carr was elected as our inaugural Board Chairperson. Greer established his own insurance company, Greer Carr Insurance, 20 years ago and calls Nashville home. With a wife and three sons, the eldest one in his third year at TTU, Greer is dedicated to his family. Greer stays busy with his involvement in his church where he serves as a Sunday School teacher, treasurer, and an active deacon. He serves on a number of boards including East Nashville Cooperative Ministries, Grace Adult Homes, Lutheran Services of Tennessee (as the only non-Lutheran member), and Eagle Express Soccer, in addition to the TTU Parents' Association. "I strongly believe we all have a duty to serve others," said Carr. Having already been an active member of the Board of Trustees, we are sure Greer will serve as a dedicated chairperson.

A note from the Chairperson

I am first and foremost a proud TTU Alumnus. My son's decision to attend TTU has given me the opportunity to reconnect with the university and do all that I can to ensure that today's students have the same great educational experience that I enjoyed. In today's economic climate, a solid educational foundation and four-year degree are more important than ever to individual success.

As a member of the TTUPA board, one of my greatest concerns is student retention. There were many students in my son's freshman class who left the first year. It is my personal goal to help students and their parents become involved and engaged quickly in TTU life and find the tools and support they need to remain in

school until degree completion. The mission of the TTUPA is to help your student have a successful college career. By bringing together the student, the parent and the university to form a triangle (the strongest geometrical shape), our goal is for your student to flourish at Tennessee Tech.

Our parent's weekend in February is a resource that can help you achieve educational and social success. We will have a dinner Friday night with the Provost for you to learn where Tech is going in the years ahead, followed by a continental breakfast Saturday morning, where President Robert Bell has previously attended. Be sure to put Parent and Family Weekend on your calendar. It is important for you and your student to become integrated in the campus community and develop a sense of belonging. Another helpful tool is our eBlast that helps keep you informed about what's happening on campus. Please also visit our website for further information on how parents and the university form the base of support for the students: <http://www.tntech.edu/passociation/>.

Keeping Your Membership Updated

As each semester brings new students to the University, the TTUPA continues to improve data management and accuracy of all members' information. However, we need your help in doing so. If you have been a member prior to 2010 or currently have more than one student enrolled at TTU, please fill out an "Update Membership" form on <http://www.tntech.edu/passociation/update/> or e-mail us your enrolled students' full name and Tech ID (T-Number) to ttupa@tntech.edu. This will help ensure your membership information is accurate and allow for you to continue receiving the benefits of the TTUPA. Thanks again for your dedication to TTU.

New Hall North and TTU's Learning Villages

With Tennessee Tech growing every year, it is only fitting that we have a new residence hall. With stylish décor and comfortable home-away-from-home amenities, the newest residence hall has added a new appeal to the University. Finally after 360,000 bricks, 330 windows, 950 doors, 80 miles of electrical wiring, as well as two years, we can proudly say, this is an amazing building.

Among the hall's features are 114 single-occupancy rooms and 112 double-occupancy rooms, all with private bathrooms. Multipurpose rooms with televisions and space for recreation are available on all four of the hall's floors. Adjacent to the hall is The Perch, which houses Papa John's and Grill Nation, along with a convenience store, sorority suites, and a state-of-the-art classroom.

New Hall North is also home to the New Learning Villages. The learning villages at TTU are envisioned as places for building lifelong social connections, developing richer engagement with areas of academic study, and providing students the opportunity for greater ownership over their living and learning lives while at the university. There are a couple of professors who even have offices in the residence halls. This is a great way for students to find their niche within the University.

Throughout New Hall North, students will find interior design details that make the hall more pleasant and less institutional than traditional residence halls. This provides a wonderful "home away from home" appeal that has all of the students here at Tennessee Tech talking, as well as staying involved on campus.



Dec. - Jan.

December:

- 10 Last Day of Classes
- 13-17 Final Exams
- 15 Scholarship Deadline
- 17 Residence Halls Close
- 18 Fall Commencement
- 24-31 Christmas Holiday (Offices Closed)

January:

- 11 Residence Halls Open
- 13 Spring Classes Begin
- 17 Martin Luther King Day (No Classes)
- 26 Last Day to Drop a Course Without a Grade

Important Dates

Feb. - March

February:

- 8 Nashville Area Career and Teacher Job Fairs
- 17 Healthcare Professionals Career Fair
- 24 Engineering and Technical Majors Career Fair
- 25-26 Parents and Family Weekend

March:

- 7-11 Spring Break
- 28-31 Summer/Fall 2011 Advisement