

ttu

parents association

spring 2011



Family Weekend 2011

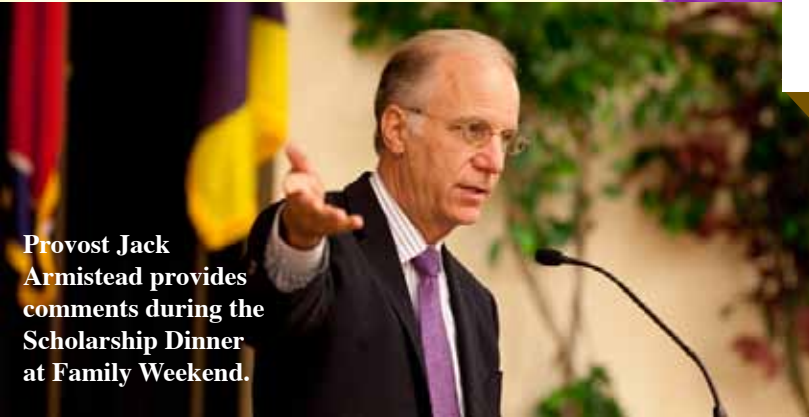


Tennessee Tech just concluded the Parent and Family Weekend for this academic year on February 25-27, and we hope parents left with a better understanding and knowledge of the vibrant community at Tech. With the annual scholarship dinner, a Tennessee Tech Parent's Association meeting, and breakfast with President Bob Bell, parents had the opportunity to see part of Tech's excitement and changes firsthand.

On Friday night the TTUPA hosted a dinner and an update on the University provided by Provost Jack Armistead. Armistead addressed several topics focusing on where the University plans to be in five years. Some of the goals Armistead mentioned were adding more residential life villages, starting renovations on older residence halls, and adding more variety to TTU's online class selection. Parents had the opportunity to mingle with faculty members from different colleges who were seated at each table.

President Bell spoke at the TTUPA meeting on Saturday. He highlighted not only what students are doing at TTU, but also why being a Golden Eagle is so special. President Bell offered a unique perspective and parents enjoyed hearing from him.

Spending time with faculty was only part of the weekend. Participating in a Cookeville-area scavenger hunt, attending the student organizations fair, and cheering on the Golden Eagle basketball teams completed parents' stay. Events like Parent and Family Weekend help make Tech a close and supportive community.



Provost Jack Armistead provides comments during the Scholarship Dinner at Family Weekend.



Administrator Profiles

Mark Ochsenein

by Amanda Miller



As he begins his tenth year as the Director of Student Activities, Mark Ochsenein is excited to see improvements to student activities and to the campus. After graduating from Eastern Kentucky University with a degree in law enforcement, Ochsenein spent 22 years in the U.S. Army. He served as the chairman of the Military Science Department at TTU, then left Tech for a short time and returned in 2001 as the Director of Student Activities. To better understand Ochsenein and his job, I sat down with him for a brief interview:

Amanda Miller: “Mr. Ochsenein, please describe all that your job entails.”

Mark Ochsenein: “As the Director of Student Activities, I oversee every student organization on campus, and we have over 200 active clubs and organizations here. I also oversee the maintenance, upkeep and reservation of rooms in the Roaden University Center. My office is also in charge of Derryberry Hall Auditorium and scheduling events that take place there. I also serve on various committees throughout campus.”

AM: “That’s great! So, in dealing with the scheduling and reservation of Derryberry Hall Auditorium and rooms in the RUC, do outside organizations use these facilities?”

cont.



Connecting with TTU’s Social Network

Parents... we know that your college students are not the only ones 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 log in 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.

A Parent's Quick Guide to TTU's Office of Career Services

Career Services – Preparation for the World of Work.

The Department of Career Services is designed to assist students with establishing an individual career development plan. From choosing majors to gaining experience to finding full-time positions or graduate school acceptance, we offer programs, career counselors, and resources to help students. Families can also assist students with their career needs by offering support and feedback while encouraging them to utilize our office.



When should my student start using Career Services?

It is never too early or too late to start using Career Services. We offer programs and resources that benefit first year students through alumni. Students at all levels are invited to attend all on-campus career fairs, workshops and events. We believe that students should learn about career opportunities from day one in order to prepare them for the world of work.

My student doesn't have a major or wants to change majors, is there anything available to help my student?

Most students will change their major at least one time during their college career and only 30% of students who enter with a career goal in mind will eventually work in that field. At least 15% of TTU's first year students enter as a general curriculum major every year. Career Services encourages general curriculum students to explore major and career options based upon their interests, skills, personality and values. Sigi3 is an excellent career assessment tool that is available 24/7 via the Career Services website. Encourage your student to take the Sigi3 assessment – it may confirm a major they have been thinking about or it may promote a major that they can then explore.

There are many resources available at Career Services to assist students in their deciding their major and meeting their career goals. Encourage your student to visit Career Services and get started with a career counseling appointment. For more information about our services, events and program, visit us at www.tntech.edu/career.

Ochsenbein Continued

MO: "Yes. We have had churches use rooms as a temporary meeting place, Cookeville High School has an awards banquet in the RUC every spring, and teacher's conferences are a few examples of organizations outside of Tech using our facilities."

AM: "Do you have any renovation plans for the near future?"

MO: "We will begin renovation of the South Patio the week after graduation in May. The plans are similar to the renovation that we did on North Patio. We also plan to have new patio furniture and landscaping. We plan to be finished before classes begin in the fall."

AM: "I can't wait to see how great it will look. Mr. Ochsenbein, what is your favorite part of your job?"

MO: "I truly enjoy students. I like to watch them grow through their learning and experiences at Tech. I am often intrigued and impressed at what students accomplish. I like that every day is different. When working with students, I my plans never go as scheduled and I enjoy that. It keeps me on my toes. The RUC is a busy building full of people. I enjoy my colleagues and the friendly atmosphere we work in."

AM: "In your opinion, what makes TTU different from other schools?"

MO: "I think Tech differs from other schools in a positive way. We are the perfect size. There are enough students to keep the campus busy. However, Tech isn't so large that students get lost in the mix or are considered just a number. We pride ourselves in being involved with students and assisting them in any way possible."

AM: "One last question, Mr. Ochsenbein. as a parent of two college-aged children, do you have any advice for parents?"

MO: "As hard as it is, give your children the opportunity to grow up. Give them the distance that is needed for them to begin to grow on their own. It's not easy, but it's worth it in the end."

Ochsenbein's office is located on the first floor of the RUC. He can be reached at 931-372-3123.

American Society of Civil Engineers Southeastern Student Conference

by Tracey Hackett

Concrete canoes and steel bridges will float and rise when Tennessee Tech University's civil engineering department hosts the annual American Society of Civil Engineers Southeastern Student Conference March 24-26.

The student-organized event will have more than 1,000 students representing 27 schools from around the world. The competitions will be held throughout campus on Friday and Cane Creek Park on Saturday. The event is free and open to the public. "We want people to know who we are and what civil engineers do," said Lindsay Bryant, concrete canoe team member. "We also want people to see what a wonderful town Cookeville is."

The concrete canoe competition provides students with a practical application of the engineering principles they learn in the classroom, along with important team and project management skills they will need in their careers. The event challenges the students' knowledge, creativity and stamina, while showcasing the versatility and durability of concrete as a building material. The project is worked on during two semesters and will be judged on four components: visual, written, presentation and the race at Cane Creek Park.

"We want to show people that engineering isn't just math and science," said Tim Harrell, steel bridge team member.

The steel bridge competition is a real world project where team members create a bridge with materials given to them. The teams this year will be challenged to build their bridge with the capability to go over a flood plain. They will be judged on the time it takes them to build and create the bridge, how much weight can be deflected, and aesthetics. Students will also have a chance to gain extra points by making the bridge lighter in weight.

"I like how the competitions are real world problems," Bryant said, "because sometimes you don't get that in a classroom."

Last year Tech placed fifth in the ASSC competitions. To find out more about the event visit tntech.edu/aseconference.



calendar dates

March

- 7-11 Spring Break
- 21 Student can view mid-term grades
- 24 Business & Nontechnical majors career fair
- 28-31 Summer & Fall 2011 advisement

April

- 1 Last day to drop with a "W" grade
- 4 Summer & Fall early course selection

- 12 Campus Wide Health Fair
- 16 Window on the World Festival
- 22 Good Friday (CLOSED)
- 29 Last day of classes

May

- 2-5 Final Exams
- 6 Residence halls close for non-graduates
- 7 Commencement