Inside

1 A Message from Our Vice President
2 Growth and Transformation
4 Support and Advocacy
6 Health and Well-being
8 Student Engagement
10 Division Awards, Recognitions and Scholarships
12 Development

Orientation Advisor Retreat
Dear Longhorn Colleagues, Friends and Family Members,

I am excited to share the Division of Student Affairs 2017-2018 Impact Report, which provides a snapshot of the many ways in which we shape the UT Austin student experience for our undergraduate and graduate students. Enhancing the student experience is at the heart of the Division of Student Affairs.

Last academic year, 98% of undergraduate students and 89% of enrolled students connected with the Division in some way. This year’s report illustrates examples of student and campus life organized in four key themes: growth and transformation, support and advocacy, health and well-being, as well as student engagement. We strive to increase innovative opportunities for students to build essential skills and cultivate their professional network starting from the moment they arrive on campus. A large part of our success comes from working side by side with our campus partners — student leaders, staff, faculty and Longhorn families.

I continue to be proud of the meaningful “learn by doing” opportunities students experience through a wide range of the Division’s organizations, leadership positions, activities and events. Such experiences build lasting relationships that embed themselves into the fabric of who we are in the Division and at UT Austin.

We will continue to build on our success, and we applaud you for the many ways that you support the UT Austin experience.

Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly
Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

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Learning Communities

University Housing and Dining launched five Living Learning Communities (LLCs) in Fall 2017 to enhance the student experience by helping on-campus residents build on their academic, social and personal interests. The Global, Healthy Lifestyles, Sustainability, Women in Engineering and Women in Natural Sciences LLCs served 220 residents in three residence halls.

Global helps students enhance their understanding of different cultural backgrounds by living with people from around the world. Healthy Lifestyles is UT Austin’s first residential community dedicated to personal well-being, sobriety and peer support. Sustainability teaches residents to serve as campus ambassadors for environmentalism, social justice and economic longevity. The two academic communities support women who think, study, live and learn with others who share their aspirations.

“We have our own sisterhood. We talk all the time, they’re in my classes, we help people study on projects, we have each other’s backs,” said
Kylie Stamey, a mechanical engineering major and former resident of Women in Engineering. Staff partnered with the International Office, The Center for Students in Recovery, Office of Sustainability, Cockrell School of Engineering and College of Natural Sciences to develop curriculums. Four new residential communities will launch in 2018-2019 supporting Jefferson Scholars, Joynes Readers and Writers, Terry Scholars and Transfer Students.

Caring for the Class

The Counseling and Mental Health Center launched Well-being in Learning Environments in Fall 2017 to improve student mental health and well-being in the classroom and academic settings.

“It's reassuring for students to know that faculty and staff are working to provide a safe environment for students to learn. By making small shifts in the classroom, students will feel more comfortable,” shared management information systems major Shalaka Damle, who is also a Counseling and Mental Health Center peer educator.

The program is made possible through a Hogg Foundation for Mental Health grant.

“By creating a deeper connection between faculty and students, we can help students feel like they belong. Students do better in a class when they feel like they're meant to be there and know someone cares,” expressed Coordinator Thea Woodruff.

Techniques include arriving early to chat with students, encouraging collaboration among students and offering breaks to process material.

“Efforts like this represent our shared vision as a university that we’re all educators and, to the extent possible, we’re all responsible for shaping learning environments,” noted Faculty Innovation Center Associate Director Josh Walker.

Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

Diversity and inclusion are among UT Austin’s top institutional priorities. This past year, President Gregory L. Fenves unveiled the University Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, a campus-wide effort led by Executive Vice President and Provost Maurie McInnis, Dr. Lilly, and Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement Leonard Moore. The plan describes actions for improving diversity and inclusion on campus and charts a course for advancing the university’s values.

One of the ways the Division of Student Affairs is taking action is through training; 20 staff members completed the Qualifying Seminar for Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI®) Administrators. The IDI® is a leading tool used for assessing and developing intercultural competency skills by universities and other organizations.

These staff members are part of the Division of Student Affairs IDI® Council, leading the Division in the implementation of intercultural communication awareness. Departments, students and staff that have participated include Office of the Dean of Students, Counseling and Mental Health Center, University Housing and Dining and Sorority and Fraternity Life chapter presidents. These groups have taken the inventory, received a presentation of the group profile and have received individual feedback sessions upon request. The council will continue this work with students and staff across campus.
On-campus Food Pantry and Career Closet

Some student organizations are sending the message that Longhorns take care of each other by helping students find reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. They collected donations for the university’s new on-campus food pantry and career closet, UT Outpost, opened by Student Emergency Services in the Office of the Dean of Students in May 2018.

“People can feel comfortable using the services provided since they have peer support. This initiative makes the campus community more inclusive,” explained corporate communications and economics major Seth Sageser.

Sageser’s student organization, Texas Transfer Students, partnered with the Student Veteran Association, Texas Sunshines and Students Over 25 at UT Austin to host on-campus food drives.

Students are able to visit UT Outpost for a custom food order once a month and a professional outfit once a year. Student Emergency Services hopes to expand UT Outpost availability with continued campus and community support.

“A student’s well-being is in jeopardy when they aren’t able to purchase food and are skipping meals to make ends meet. We want to make sure that Longhorns are able to succeed on campus,” added Coordinator Will Ross.

UT Austin parents donated more than $14,000 to launch the initial phase of the program.
New Student and Family Programs

In Summer 2018 New Student Services added a seventh freshman orientation session to offer better access to 80+ orientation advisors, programming and more flexibility in choosing a session.

To learn more about campus safety and community support, students are required to attend a new program, “Longhorns Take Care of Each Other,” led by the UT Austin Police Department and Counseling and Mental Health Center. Supporting the university’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, transfer students are now required to attend the social responsibility show “Horns Up, Hearts Open,” which encourages students to be open-minded to their peers’ differing social identities and backgrounds.

“We want to help incoming students feel like they belong on our campus. We hope they enjoy learning about the Forty Acres and what it means to be a Longhorn before they become a student,” noted Director Celena Mondie-Milner.

In conjunction with UT Orientation, Texas Parents added two programs to the freshman Family Orientation lineup in Summer 2018.

The First-Generation College Parent Afternoon Choice Session supports a university-wide initiative under a new committee to better support first-generation college students and their families beyond orientation. Texas Parents also invited staff from the Multicultural Engagement Center to lead a session sharing information about the center, resources, student organizations, and programs that support diversity and on-campus community engagement.

“Both programs were added to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment. We hope all Longhorn families feel supported and aware of campus resources to help their student succeed,” shared Director Susie Smith.

Recovery Speaker Series

The Seminar on Addiction and Recovery, known as SOAR, is helping fight stigma around addiction and recovery by engaging local experts and UT Austin students, faculty and staff. Since its launch in 2016, The Center for Students in Recovery has hosted 14 seminars on a range of topics including overdose prevention and the science of addiction. The speaker series has soared in popularity during the 2017-2018 academic year with increased attendance and more well-known speakers.

“One of the biggest benefits to this event is breaking down silos across disciplines on campus. Attendees gain exposure to contemporary research, build relationships with experts and participate in a dialogue that changes misconceptions,” said Director Sierra Castedo.

SOAR is hosted monthly September-November and February-April.
Unique Fitness Programs

Recreational Sports identified two innovative improvements to keep up with current fitness trends and better serve students, members and the campus community. In Fall 2017 staff upgraded the group cycling studio and in Spring 2018 they launched F45 Training, a 45-minute, high-intensity, functional training class.

“The new technology helps me motivate and connect with participants. For my peers pursuing a health and fitness career after graduation, this opportunity gives them a real-world coaching experience,” shared biology major Belen Gutierrez, who is a TeXercise program assistant and instructor for both cycling and F45 Training.

By renovating an 800-square-foot racquetball court in Gregory Gymnasium, staff created an atmosphere for group cycling similar to the boutique studios with design, lights and music. Cycling’s move from the Recreational Sports Center freed up a 2,200-square-foot space for F45 Training. This program brings one of the fastest-growing fitness trends to campus.

Since making these upgrades to their 500,000 square feet of indoor recreation space, staff have seen an increase in participation in group cycling classes, and more males and faculty/staff members participating in F45 Training classes.
Hazing Prevention

The Office of the Dean of Students invited all students to join the effort in preventing hazing at the inaugural Horns Against Hazing in Spring 2018. The program expanded on the office’s work to educate student organization members on hazing by providing two 90-minute sessions open to all students on campus.

“At Horns Against Hazing, I learned more about the psychology behind hazing and the dangerous effects it can have on organization members. It was really empowering to be told that we have the power to speak up and make change within our own organizations, and the university as a whole,” noted social work major Tori Martinez, who is also an Office of the Dean of Students safety education peer educator.

Using bystander intervention techniques, 300 attendees were equipped with tools to recognize potential harm, choose to respond and take action. This strategy will help them intervene if they experience hazing in their own student organization.

“This is just one of the many ways we are helping protect students from harm. Small steps can make a huge difference in creating healthy environments for student groups,” added Prevention and Risk Management Coordinator Jenny Mason.

Sorority and Fraternity Life in the Office of the Dean of Students provides hazing and safety education training to representatives of registered student organizations. University-wide initiatives include BeVocal, Wellness Network and participation in a national hazing prevention consortium.

Free Testing

Making healthcare more accessible for students, University Health Services launched the Get Yourself Tested Fund in January 2018. This service provides free sexually-transmitted infection testing to students. The average value for each student utilizing the fund once a semester is approximately $100.

The Student Services Budget Committee provided $8,000 for the fund, but in order to serve more Longhorns, students have begun fundraising. University Health Services’ Student Health Advisory Committee hosted bake sales and tabled to raise awareness, stressing the importance of every student’s personal health and wellness.

“Good health is super important for quality of life — it makes us better students and campus citizens. Your health affects you for the rest of your life,” said former committee President Connie Zhao, BS '18.

In 2018-2019, students will continue fundraising efforts and healthy sexuality and safe sex education through the department’s Office of Health Promotion.
We connect with students every day, providing opportunities to help them learn new skills.

**Designed by Students for Students**

The Student Services Building celebrated 20 years at The University of Texas at Austin in Fall 2017. The six-story, 180,000-square-foot building provides diverse services, builds community and creates a welcoming environment.

Former students wanted a facility with spaces to socialize and study, so they came up with the idea for the project in 1991. The $20 million project was completed in 1997.

“We began to grasp the magnitude of the opportunity. We not only wanted a centralized place for key student services, but also a place for all students to build and celebrate community,” shared Eric Dixon, BS ’93, a former Student Government representative.

Many Division of Student Affairs services are housed in the building, including the Office of the Dean of Students, University Health Services, Counseling and Mental Health Center, and New Student Services. Students can also seek the support of the Office of the Student Ombuds and some services under the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement.

**Diversity Dialogue**

Inspiring a conversation about diversity and inclusion, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs brought more than 200 students, staff and faculty together for
The Defamation Experience. This nationally-touring, interactive theater program explores race, religion, gender and class through a courtroom case where the audience is the jury.

After viewing the 85-minute performance, attendees engaged in open dialogue about how these themes impact students’ experience on our campus.

“This interactive performance broadened my views on these topics and interpersonal communication. It has helped me better understand the experiences of my peers,” said Sydney O’Connell, BS ’18.

The Defamation Experience is one of the many ways the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs is supporting the University Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan.

Recognizing Excellence

Since 1951 Texas Parents has recognized two outstanding senior students who demonstrate exceptional leadership, scholarship, character and service.

“I’ve learned that serving the community and shedding light on important dialogue can be reflected not only in my art, but also in my actions. On campus, I have seen firsthand how student expression provokes thought, discussion and empathy that enrich campus culture and, eventually, the world at large.”

Lizzy Tan, BFA and BA ’18

“Student Government taught me so much about the backgrounds of those different from me. It has forever opened my eyes to others’ struggles and has inspired me to always find ways to impact my community.”

Micky Wolf, BBA and BA ’18

Honoring Outstanding Student Employees

The University of Texas at Austin employs 11,000 students across campus — a larger workforce than Google, Apple and Oracle have at their Austin offices. The Division of Student Affairs is the largest employer of students on campus, helping 2,000 student staff members learn marketable skills that will prepare them for life after graduation. These kinds of experiences not only contribute to their future success, but also their well-being, according to a Gallup survey of UT Austin alumni released in Fall 2017.

The offices of the President, Vice President for Student Affairs and Human Resources honor the President’s Student Employee of the Year Award winner and 10 finalists for their positive impact on the university. Finalist Danny Bacic’s testimonial sums up the value of working on campus.

“The true test of readiness is the ability to adapt to changing situations as they unfold. Recreational Sports has given me invaluable management experience. Leading a team requires confident decision-making, consistent moral standards, effective communication and teamwork.”

Danny Bacic, BS ’18

Employment: Recreational Sports, Student Assistant
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Activities: Longhorn Band, UT Student Engineers Educating Kids, Kappa Psi, Intramural Basketball, Dodgeball, Flag Football, Soccer, Softball, Ultimate and Volleyball
Nationally-recognized Leadership Program

NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education honored the Office of the Dean of Students’ ProjectLEAD with a Silver Excellence Award. This award recognizes cutting-edge programs, innovative services and effective administration that transform students. The year-long project management and leadership development program helps students apply their skills to a community service project.

“ProjectLEAD is unique because it puts students in charge of projects that create tangible products to serve a non-profit organization in the community. I learned about project management, discovered my personal leadership style and experienced collaborating with a team,” said Kinsey Ratcliff, BS ’18.

Arno Nowotny Medal Recipients

President Gregory L. Fenves honored two former Division team members with the Arno Nowotny Medal. Since 1983 the president has awarded this prestigious university honor annually to staff who went above and beyond to serve students.

For more than two decades, Jane Bost pioneered efforts to prevent sexual assault and interpersonal violence, enhancing the lives of many students.

As associate director and psychologist in the Counseling and Mental Health Center, Bost started Voices Against Violence, a program that addresses sexual violence, dating violence and stalking. Its interactive theater program Get Sexy. Get Consent. received a national award for educating hundreds of students about consent. The White House identified these programs as a promising practice to address the issue of campus sexual assault.

For nearly 30 years, Andy Smith helped enhance opportunities for students to plan, promote and produce on-campus programs that represent diverse interests.

As the University Unions’ longest serving director and first executive director, Smith started the Grants for Active Student Participants to encourage and facilitate participation in Campus Events+Entertainment, the university’s largest event-planning organization. He also implemented the Events Co-sponsorship Board which awards programming funds to registered student organizations. Smith also created the Governors’ Room in the Texas Union, honoring Texas governors, and the University Unions Presidential Medallion Program.
Division Awards, Recognitions and Scholarships

1999 Bonfire Unity Endowed Presidential Scholarship
Acacia Fraternity Endowed Scholarship
Alys Jones Bodoin Centennial Endowed Scholarship
Amo Nowotny Medal
Betty A. Thompson Endowment for Recreational Sports
Bill Frisbie Endowed Scholarship
Bill Patman Endowed Scholarship
Brian L. Harlan Memorial Endowment
C. Thomas Behrman/Tejas Scholarship
Carol Weikman Farnsworth & James Walter Farnsworth Endowment for Students in Recovery
Charles and Carolyn Spence, James and Kathryn (Spence) Nance, and William (Spence) and Edith Nance Endowed Scholarship
Cristi Biggs Orientation Leadership Fund
Cullen Trust for Higher Education Endowed Fund for Students in Recovery
Dawn & Greg Crouch Endowed Excellence Fund for Students in Recovery
Dean Byron Fullerton/Tejas Scholarship
DeDe and Joe Bill Watkins Endowed Scholarship
Delta Gamma Foundation Endowed Lecture Fund in Values and Ethics
Delta Tau Delta Endowed Scholarship
Donna Stockton-Hicks & R. Steven Hicks Endowed Excellence Fund for The Center for Students in Recovery
Fleming Fellowship Scholarship
Floyd B. Hoeting Quality of Life Award
Foyt Family Endowment for Student Affairs
George Kinsolving Endowed Memorial Student Services Fund
Glenn Maloney Memorial Scholarship
Gregory E. Lucia/Tejas Scholarship
Harrison Brown Endowed Excellence Fund
Haruka Weiser Endowed Excellence Fund for Campus and Student Safety
Ingram Lee Endowed Scholarship
Intramural Endowment
James W. Vick Academic Bridge Fund Endowment
Jean Perkins Foundation Combat Veteran Scholarship
Jessica Michelle Fertitta Excellence Fund for Student Advocacy & Civic Engagement
Jim Fenner Fund
C.C. “Jitter” Nolen Spirit Award
John M. Childs Endowed Scholarship for Intramural Referees
Judge Harley Clark/Tejas Scholarship
Judge Roscoe C. Lamberth/Tejas Scholarship
Judge Zeke Zbranek/Tejas Scholarship
Kenneth Ford Family Endowed Scholarship
Lubbock Endowed Excellence Fund for Handball in Honor of Pete Tyson
Maralyn S. Heimlich Scholarship
Margaret Alexander Steiner Endowed Scholarship Fund
Margaret C. Berry Student Activities Fund
Marion B. Buescher Memorial Scholarship
Mark L. Hart, Jr. Endowed Scholarship
Max, Gene Alice and Lynn Sherman The Center for Students in Recovery Endowment
Merryman/Revell Excellence Endowment
National Residence Hall Honorary Induction
National Residence Hall Honorary “Of the Month” Awards
Nelson Puetz, Jr. Endowment for Recreational Sports
Office of the Dean of Students Dean’s Dozen
Office of the Dean of Students Pillars of the Forty Acres Recognition Program
Office of the Dean of Students Sorority and Fraternity Life Awards
Office of the Dean of Students Swing Out Awards
Office of the Dean of Students Transforming Texas Greeks
Office of the Dean of Students Veteran Academic Leadership Award
Orange Jackets Endowment for Voices Against Violence
Phi Gamma Delta Endowed Scholarship
Play Golf America University Endowment in Recreational Sports
Rebecca H. Carreon Scholarship Fund
Recreational Sports Endowed Scholarship
Robert G. Childress Endowed Scholarship
Robert L. Dewar Golf Scholarship
Scott B. Styles Endowed Excellence Fund for Lacrosse
Sean N. Bourgeois Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Senate of College Councils Endowed Scholarship Fund
Senate of College Councils’ William Powers Jr. Endowed Scholarship
Sgt. Tyrell Seth Williams, U.S. Marine Corps Endowed Scholarship
Sharon H. Justice Leadership Scholarship
Shawn and Kara Wells Endowment for Horns Helping Horns
Student Activity Center Program Endowment
Student Government Endowed Excellence Fund
Susan and Mark Baletka Endowed Scholarship
Sylvie and Gary Crum Endowed Scholarship
Tany Norwood Staff Appreciation Award Endowment
Texas Cowboys Centennial Lectureship
Texas Cowboys Endowment for UT Students
Texas Men’s Lacrosse Endowment
Texas Parents Mike Wacker Award
Texas Parents Outstanding Student Awards
Texas Parents Staff Merit Awards
Texas Union Student Awards Endowment
Texas Union-University Co-Operative Society Presidential Medallion Endowment
The Center for Students in Recovery Scholarships
The Center for Students in Recovery Alumni Endowment
The Center for Students in Recovery Fund
The David L. Shull Memorial Scholarship
Theodore Henry Strauss Student Award for Exemplary University Service
Thomas W. Disson Endowed Scholarship
University Health Services Healthy Student Organization Program Awards
University Health Services Outstanding Student Health Leadership Award
University Housing and Dining Residence Life Leadership Awards
University Unions J.J. “Jake” Pickle Citizenship Award
University Unions Pal—Make A Difference Award
University Unions Shirley Bird Perry Leadership Award
W. Ralph Canada, Jr. Endowment for Horns Helping Horns
William Andrew Smith, Jr. Grasp Award

President Gregory L. Fenves, Jane Bost, Andy Smith and Dr. Lilly
Students Give Back

Every Longhorn benefits from philanthropy — whether it be through student scholarships, student organization grants or program funding. “Giving back to the university means the next generation of Longhorns will have a more fulfilling experience on the Forty Acres. No matter how much you give, all donations are important,” said Cameron Maxwell, BBA ’18, and 2017-2018 Student Government external financial director.

HornRaiser, the university’s official crowdfunding platform, has also encouraged student participation in philanthropy. Student Government used it to raise $18,500 for SURE Walk, an organization dedicated to eliminating sexual assault and interpersonal violence by providing safe walks and rides home. Texas Parents gave an additional $3,000 to the cause, allowing Student Government to purchase two new golf carts to increase student access to safe rides home.

Student Government also asked seniors to give to the 2018 Senior Class Gift on HornRaiser. The funds will benefit Interpersonal Violence Peer Support, UT Outpost and adding a Longhorn silhouette to the Student Activity Center.

The university’s Thanks Day gives students the opportunity to thank the people who support their campus experience. In Fall 2017, 325 students wrote notes thanking Division donors for their generosity.
Investing in Leadership

Wealth manager and founder of Avalon Advisors Kevin Lilly, BBA ’82, knows how to identify a good investment. He makes significant contributions to the future leaders at his alma mater — not only financially, but through his time and talent. In Spring 2018 he was the keynote speaker at the seventh annual Texas Leadership Summit, hosted by the Leadership and Ethics Institute in the Office of the Dean of Students.

“Giving back is a pay-it-forward concept. This university has created the foundation for me to build a legacy. It’s important to ensure that those resources that allowed me to succeed are there for future generations,” he shared.

In 1979 Lilly co-founded the Texas Wranglers, a men’s service organization. He remains connected to this group by mentoring its members. He also served on the Senate of College Councils as the president of the McCombs School of Business undergraduate council. Lilly was also an orientation advisor and Campus Events+Entertainment committee member.

Supporting Military-affiliated Students

The Jean Perkins Foundation Combat Veterans Scholarship provides $275,000 for scholarships and $25,000 for emergency and discretionary funding. In 2017-2018, 55 Longhorns received scholarships.

“This scholarship allows me to take a step closer to becoming a physician’s assistant. I know the additional stress that many veterans face when going back to school, and financial burdens should not be one. I will carry this generosity with me for years to come.”

Air Force veteran Brian Buhrer, BS ’17.

Family Leadership

A group of UT Austin parents is leading the way in volunteerism and philanthropic investment through the Longhorn Family Leadership Council. In Fall 2017 Dr. Lilly appointed council members to assist in fundraising efforts and provide vital feedback from the parent perspective.

“We are honored to serve alongside a group of families who engage in meaningful conversations with university leadership and provide unique insight from the Longhorn parent perspective,” noted Don Laidlaw, who serves on the council with his wife Suzanne.

The Laidlaw’s two sons attended UT Austin and they have seen firsthand how parent, family and alumni support make a difference at the university.
Contact

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**Counseling and Mental Health Center**
cmhc.utexas.edu
(512) 471-3515

**New Student Services**
orientation.utexas.edu
(512) 471-3304

**Office of the Dean of Students**
deanofstudents.utexas.edu
(512) 471-5017

**Recreational Sports**
utrecsports.org
(512) 471-1155

**Texas Parents**
texasparents.org
(512) 471-2353

**The Center for Students in Recovery**
recovery.utexas.edu
(512) 475-6778

**University Health Services**
healthyhorns.utexas.edu
(512) 471-4955

**University Housing and Dining**
housing.utexas.edu
(512) 471-3136

**University Unions**
universityunions.utexas.edu
(512) 475-6636

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