



# Leadership Link

Center for Leadership Development  
The University of Tennessee

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## Special Points of Interest

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## Choose Your Direction

By: Caroline Sarros

Choose your direction. This is the statement that Leadership Guides proudly embrace. As a peer resource team on campus Leadership Guides encourage students to choose the direction of their organization. Leadership Guides provide programs and information on various leadership and organizational topics for groups across campus. Effective Meetings, Communication, Listening Skills, Time Management, Leadership Styles, Motivation, and Leading with Integrity are just a few examples of the topics available, but presentations can be designed for any topic a group desires. Leadership Guides have served Housing, fraternities, sororities, religious organizations, and many others. At every program, members of Leadership Guides will tailor the activities and presentation to the specific needs of the group

This semester Leadership Guides have also teamed up with FOCUS to work on a new program at the University of Tennessee. LiFT, Leadership in Focus at Tennessee, will provide diversity awareness programming and information to groups on campus. Leadership Guides have completed the initial stages of training and are eager to begin work on this new project.

Leadership Guide programs are available at no cost to any university group. Program requests can be submitted online at <http://web.utk.edu/~leader/>. Information and handouts can be picked up at the Center for Leadership Development, 315-F University Center.



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## Admissions

By: John Foster

The Admissions office at UT, located at 320 Student Services, is the first step down the road to graduation. This is the place where all incoming students must go to begin their college career. In the Office of Admissions, prospective students are can get information about the University of Tennessee. The Office of Admissions has just been renovated with the latest technology and several conference and meeting rooms.

Every spring, the academic office presents the Spring Fling. This event, geared towards high school juniors, gives interested students the chance to familiarize themselves with the university. Information is presented about the colleges, students are shown the classroom setting, and tours of the campus are given. These tours are given by UT Ambassadors at all times of the year.

In the fall, a more formal open house is given

to high school seniors who are interested in attending the university.

Vol Callers are current students who reach prospective students by phone to share information about the University of Tennessee. ME4UT is a minority organization that helps coordinate programs held by the office of admissions.

If you are interested in leading tours or helping interested students, call the office of admissions at 974-2184 or visit them on the web.



## A Look at the 2004-2005 SGA Officers *By: Lori Jones*

After a long week of campaigning for the 2004 Student Government Association elections, one party showed students that they were here to stay. Tennessee Tradition came out of the March 30 and 31 elections with the two top spots. With Chaz Molder winning President with 2,555 votes and Rachel Clement securing the Vice Presidency with a count of 2,771, the pair proved that their ideas to enhance the UT community were well received among student voters. Their supporters in the Student Senate reigned supreme, as well, gaining 39 of the 73 available seats.

"I wanted to run for Student Body Vice President this year because I want to make a change. I believe I can make a difference on this campus with the help of the newly elected administration," explained Clement. Molder added, "I see SGA as a sleeping giant. There are so many things that SGA already does. However, there are so many more things we can do. It's time for us to wake up and truly make a difference on this campus."

Both of the newly elected representatives have lofty ambitions for their terms in office. Clement offered a few ideas that she hopes to begin implementing in the fall. "I have many goals to accomplish this year that were outlined in our policy including issues concerning diversity, safety, technology, student awareness, and tradition," she said. "Serving as President of the Senate, I hope to implement a Student Senate Fair where students can come and express their concerns and ideas about what they would like to see done in their college or residential area. Student awareness is very important to me. I want to let the students know exactly what student government is doing on this campus. I would also like to hold a Senate retreat,



where we outline our goals for the coming year. Senate can be a very influential legislative body on this campus, and I have already urged the newly elected senators to take their roles and positions very seriously."

Molder outlined his vision of a "safer campus environment," centralized student services in a renovated University Center, and a better understanding of the diversity found on our campus. "Our campus is diverse," Molder stated. "We have so many people who are willing to help see such projects as the Just Community and Diversity Council become a reality. I hope to at least get these important programs off the ground and implemented in the near future. There are currently many projects going on this campus that the students need to be aware of, and I hope that we can do a better job in relaying these messages," he added.

The duo will definitely have a full plate in the next two semesters striving to follow through with the goals they defined. "From the beginning of our campaign we set goals that are feasible and realistic. I will work my hardest to accomplish these goals this coming year. I look forward to working with the new administration!"

Clement said.

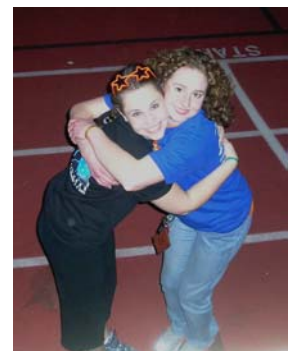
Thinking back to election night, and of the bright possibilities of the future, Molder stated, "When the results came in, there was a definite satisfaction that our hard work had paid off. We were extremely humbled that so many of our peers and members of the student body had not only voted, but voted in our favor by such a large margin. We were also excited for the many people that had worked so hard for us and believed in us, as we knew it wasn't just a victory for us, but for Tennessee Tradition. Now that we are sworn in office, the victory is for the entire campus.

## We're All Greek Together

*By: Jeffie Hickman*

Once again The University of Tennessee's Greek Week was a huge success. Each year the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, and the Black Greek Letter Organization team up to host Greek Week. Greek Week allows sororities and fraternities to come together and compete in events, while benefiting the community through fundraisers and charity work. This year's events entailed, but were not limited to: Greek Olympics, a blood drive to benefit MEDIC Blood Center, a carnival for the Boys and Girls Club, and a Greek god and goddess competition to benefit the East Tennessee Children's Hospital. T-shirts for Greek Week pictured the infamous John Belushi from the classic movie *Animal House* with the slogan: "NO MATTER THE LETTERS, WE'RE ALL

GREEK TOGETHER." Greek Week is very exciting for the entire Greek Community; it is sort of like the Homecoming of the spring! Besides the competitions and silly games it allows all Greek women and men to come together and experience a sense of unity that can sometimes be forgotten throughout the year. Thanks to the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic, and Black Greek Letter Association for another wonderful Greek Week! Remember, no matter the letters, we're all Greek together!



## Emerging Leaders Road Trip

*By: Jamie Cooney*

Have you ever wondered if leaders on other campuses struggle with the same issues we have at UT? Well, earlier this month members of the Emerging Leaders class went on a road trip to find out just that. We traveled by bus to Ohio State University where eager students full of ideas, questions, and information to share with us greeted us. This gave us a time to not only gain knowledge about their programs but also to show off our school pride and let them know what all UT has to offer. It was interesting to hear what areas they struggled in and excelled. For example, Welcome Week at OSU, although still directed towards incoming freshmen, attracts all students on campus. The events are diverse and coordinated to welcome back returning students as well as welcome the new freshmen class. OSU's Welcome Week kicks off the school year right providing opportunity for all students to interact and unite. On the other hand, the Greek leaders, although seeing improvement, struggle to get students to go through recruitment. They have a much larger student body than UT yet; only 7% of their campus is Greek. Knowing the strengths and weaknesses of each campus let us come together as leaders and provide assistance in different areas.

After an awesome visit to OSU, we headed down the road to the University of Cincinnati. Once we arrived we immediately received a presentation concerning Main Street, their multimillion-dollar campus renovation project. The plans were drawn, the construction was started, and what was finished of the project was amazing! We were blown away with their facilities and what they had to offer. However, talking with students gave us a slightly different perspective. Only a small percentage of the students that attend UC live on campus, it is a huge commuter school. The administration therefore is building these facilities in hopes to attract more students to campus in the evenings. The students, although excited about the renovation, still had in their minds the project would not help that lack of student involvement on campus. We gave them some positive programming ideas and offered some advice to bring students to campus after classes were over. In addition, they told us how SGA sponsors all the main events on campus. This gives students a better view of their student government because they directly see the benefits given to them by their elected officers.

I could go on and on with examples of the knowledge and information the Emerging Leaders class gained from our trip. It was an experience that brought not only leaders on our campus together but let us meet with other leaders outside of UT to get a different perspective on trying issues.

## Ignite Program 2004

*By: Elizabeth Chapman*

The Ignite program is off to a running start—we have been busy planning for our Orientation interest sessions and our summer retreat for freshmen, the Ignite Summit. After choosing a great group of team leaders, we have divided up into committees--Teams, Summit, and Orientation—and become quite engulfed in planning and preparing for the freshmen coming in the fall. Ignite is a program designed for entering freshmen to help initiate them into the college life as well as instilling in them a pride in the University of Tennessee and helping them prepare for leadership roles in the future. The teams committee is hard at work planning a curriculum for the fall team meetings in which the teams will meet once a week, either Tuesday or Wednesday at 8:00, and discuss and learn about important issues facing freshmen and how to be successful in the college world. In addition to the teams portion of Ignite which starts the first week of school in the fall and continues the first eight weeks of class, our summer retreat, the Ignite Summit, is equally as popular. At the Summit, freshmen get the chance to meet not only fellow freshmen but also upper classmen team leaders and UT faculty and staff as well. They participate in a ropes course and other activities while learning about the important aspects of leadership such as communication, diversity, and time management. This year's Summit is planned for July 9-11. Tell all your freshmen friends to sign up at [web.utk.edu/~leader](http://web.utk.edu/~leader) or email [leader@utk.edu](mailto:leader@utk.edu) for more information.



## **Personal Perspective: The People of the Black Cultural Center**

*By: Timothy Green*

When I first arrived here at U.T., I did not know anything about the Black Cultural Center. I did not get to see it while I was here for orientation. The only thing I knew about the Black Cultural Center was that it was suppose to be a pretty nice place. That turned out to be an understatement. This building does it all; it has a lounge, a computer lab, tutors and multipurpose rooms for many different activities. Maybe I am jumping ahead of myself. This place was not always as elegant as it is now. The new Black Cultural Center opened in June of 2002. Before then, the office of minority student affairs and all of the programs that the BCC offered were in an old house located by the university center. After pursuant efforts by African American students in the 70s, the first black cultural center was open in the summer of 1976. Since then, this place has been a "home away from home" for anyone on campus. I started working at the BCC October of 2003. I love the atmosphere and I love the people that work with me.



The Director, Ms. Denelle Niles is one of the most caring people I have ever met. She shows her love for the BCC everyday. Ms. Jocelyn Milton is an angel on Earth; she is the assistant director and like a mother figure here for me. Mr. Anton Reece is the Academic Support Coordinator; he keeps me on my toes. He always comes by the desk when I work and says something that helps me out even though I did not ask him. Ms. Yolanda Brooks is the Administrative Assistant. She is one of the funniest people I work under. She makes me feel good while I'm at work. Ms. Michelle is the nighttime supervisor. She is a delight to work with. She is always there to help people when they need anything extra for a program or just to make sure that everything is okay.

I have nothing but positive things to say about the Black Cultural Center because my experiences there have been nothing but positive towards me. I encourage every color, race and nationality to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Black Cultural Center.

## **Leadership Conference a Success Once Again**

*By: Nathan Zipper*

The 3rd annual Student Leadership Conference was held on March 20, 2004 in the University Center. Approximately 245 students ranging from freshman to graduate students had the opportunity to attend. The day began with a welcome by Dr. Loren Crabtree and was followed by the first of three breakout sessions. The breakout sessions were 45 minute informative "programs" where students could go and learn about everything from "Succeeding Ethically" to "Leadership with Dr. Seuss." After two breakout sessions the students had the privilege to hear the keynote speaker Mr. John Blumberg. Mr. Blumberg is a professional speaker and runs a company called Keynote Concepts.

Mr. Blumberg spoke about, what he calls, FOCUS. FOCUS stands for Foundation, Outlook, Concrete Plan, Undermines, and Service. Mr. Blumberg provided priceless information and techniques that everyone could use in their day to day lives. After Mr. Blumberg spoke the students went to the third and final breakout session and the conference was wrapped up with a closing by Mr. Anton Reece. Mr. Reece is the Minority Affairs Coordinator here at the University of Tennessee. The leadership conference was very informative and all the students had a great time.

## **Recruitment 2004**

*By: Rebecca Harper*

Many incoming freshman women have similar goals and expectations as they arrive at UT: building lasting relationships, becoming involved, and the pursuit of scholarship. Though there are many organizations on campus that can fulfill many of these needs, Greek life is one way to get your feet wet. I have personally made many new friendships and built lasting connections through my experience in a sorority. Writing this very article is an example of an opportunity that I obtained through my sorority to become involved. Greek life is a unique experience and I would encourage all incoming freshman women to give it consideration. I know that after a long day of orientation the last thing anyone wants to do is go to another meeting, but in the words of a favorite quote; "From the outside looking in few can understand, but from the inside looking out few can explain."