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University of Tennessee, Knoxville

A Message from the Provost

Dear colleagues,

As we look to the fall, technology will play a critical role in teaching and learning—whether classes are online, hybrid, or face-to-face with online backup. A team including faculty and representatives from both the Office of Information Technology and Facilities Services is working to ensure that hundreds of classrooms get technology updates. We are prioritizing classrooms that will be used for hybrid instruction.

In partnership with OIT, we are finishing Round Two of the Virtual Vol Bootcamp now. Round Three starts next week with another 200 instructors. When finished, more than 570 full-time, part-time, and graduate student instructors of record will have completed one of the three bootcamps.

Working with our faculty leader, Mark Collins from the Haslam College of Business, 30 faculty fellows for technology-enhanced teaching are now active and working with instructors across campus. Fellows represent a broad range of colleges, departments, disciplines, and teaching expertise. See the faculty fellows website to learn more about the fellows and request a consultation.

We are also partnering with our faculty leader, Sally Harris from the Department of English, and staff from Student Success and OIT to offer the First-Year Course Academy beginning this month. The academy is a collection of resources and training modules to help

empower and equip faculty teaching first-year courses with the tools they need to effectively educate, engage, and support our new students during the unique fall semester coming soon.

Teaching and Learning Innovation has created a library of new online and downloadable resources to help faculty teach during the pandemic. Resources include risk management tools for off-campus experiences and fieldwork as well as teaching tips, active learning techniques, and examples of group activities for socially distanced classrooms. We have also updated the campus syllabus to include new campus policies and guidelines regarding COVID-19.

I will be scheduling a seminar for instructors in the coming weeks to share additional information about what we are working on to support you this fall, and answer your questions. Panelists will discuss adaptations to classrooms, course formats, instructional strategies, new classroom technology, resources for instructors, expectations for students, and more.

John Zomchick
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

Vaccination Requirements

The UT Board of Trustees has approved an emergency resolution authorizing the UT System to require CDC– or Tennessee Department of Health–recommended vaccines for faculty, staff, and students at each campus and institute across the state. The vaccination requirements were established to protect the health and safety of the university community. Here's what you need to know:

- The requirement currently includes only the flu vaccine. It could later include a future COVID vaccine that is recommended by the CDC and Tennessee Department of Health.
- The CDC has noted that the flu vaccine will be more important

than ever in the 2020–21 flu season.

- Students and employees can request an exemption to vaccine requirements.

Finalists Announced, Forums Next Week: Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Finalists for the vice provost for faculty affairs will host open forums over Zoom July 6–8. The finalists are Diane Kelly, professor and director of the School of Information Sciences in the College of Communication and Information; Bonnie Ownley, professor and graduate director of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology in the Herbert College of Agriculture; and Lisa Yamagata-Lynch, professor of educational psychology and counseling in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences and university ombudsperson. Application materials, Zoom links, and feedback forms are available on the executive search website.

Reminder: Administrative Closing

UT will be closed tomorrow, Friday, July 3.

In Case You Missed It

Here is some good news you may have missed in the past week:

Karen Armsey, director of the UT Institute of Agriculture's Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee (HABIT) outreach program, was one of six faculty and staff members honored by UT System President Randy Boyd with a 2020 President's Award. HABIT has more than doubled the number of volunteer teams and locations served under Armsey's 15-year tenure.

The *Dolly Parton's America podcast* won a prestigious Peabody Award. The podcast is based on Professor Lynn Sacco's class Dolly's America: From Sevierville to the World, which she created as a history honors class after seeing Parton accept an honorary degree from UT

in 2009.

The Office of Alumni Affairs announced a new specialty license plate to benefit student scholarships. The new plate requires a $35 deposit and is available to all Tennessee residents. Preregistration for the license plate is available online now through August 15.

Over the past two years, a partnership between UT Knoxville and the UT Health Science Center has evaluated the effect of noise-induced hearing loss on students in the School of Music. Through this collaborative effort, students have become more aware of the risks to their hearing and are learning how to better protect their health as musicians.

UT is launching a new initiative, End Hunger/Feed Change, to increase awareness and education around the topic of food insecurity. This hunger studies working group is composed of staff, faculty, and students from various departments and campus units who have come together to develop sustainable initiatives and policies to address hunger and lessen the effects of food insecurity.