

The Friar Forum

Fall 2003

From the Abbot...

Dear Fellow Friar,

The active Friars would like to extend to you an invitation to our Fall Reunion Weekend, November 1-2. This weekend is also Parent's Weekend and the time for the UT v. Nebraska football match. In addition, we are excited to announce that Terry O. Tottenham (Spring '67) has been selected as our 2003 Friar Honored Alum. Mr. Tottenham is a partner at the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski and an adjunct professor at The University of Texas School of Law.

This fall, with the advice of the Friar alums, the active Friars are making updates to the Friar selection process. After a three year hiatus, we are again accepting applications for membership in Friars. We hope that the application process will lead to a more fair assessment of each candidate as well as a larger and more diverse group of initiates. Furthermore, the active Friars are taking steps to 'get the word out' about Friars to increase visibility on campus, and therefore, applications to the society. Cameron Hightower (Fall '58) has suggested that Friars take out an ad in *The Daily Texan* to announce each semester's initiates. Let me know if you would like to contribute.

With the 100th anniversary of the Friar Society only 8 years away, we would like to start a Friar Centennial Planning Committee this fall. With the amount of turnover with the active Friars, it will be necessary to have Friar alums participate in the planning of the Centennial if it is to be a success. If you are interested in participating in this Committee, please contact me at tierney@mail.utexas.edu or (512) 632-5031.

In order to strengthen the society leading up to the Centennial, we hope to renew interest in city-based associations. Jeff Greening (Fall '99) and Danielle Anderson (Fall '01) have expressed interest in renewing activity in the Dallas area. Amanda Babcock (Fall '94) would like to gather Friar alums in the Washington DC metro area. In addition, we would like to begin pairing Friar initiates with alums who can serve as mentors in order to build intergenerational relationships within the society. We welcome all Friar Alums to volunteer to mentor initiates at the Cocktail and Breakfast. We look forward to seeing you in November.

Pax Vobiscum,

Sarah Tierney (Spring '02)
Abbot

About the Actives...

Leith Abdulla is busy making tour of his victory lap (5th year) trying to finish his electrical and computer engineering degree. He will soon send off applications to grad schools asking for acceptance and money. In the meantime, between awaiting decisions and studying for tests, he has re-released Student Government/Senate's new website along with a UT Student Organization Calendar.

Rob Addy, Chair of the Friar Centennial Teaching Fellowship, is in his final year of law school. He is figuring out where he will work after graduation in May.

Nada Danielle Antoun, current Almoner, is a first year M.A. student in the department of Radio-Television-Film. She is currently chair of the Union Board of Directors, in addition to acting as the student liaison for *Longhorn Women Leaders*.

Jordan Buckley is pursuing an undergraduate degree in sociology, Latin American studies, and Spanish. Jordan is a Two Year at Large Representative in Student Government. Additionally, he hosts a weekly radio show about UT politics, judges poetry submissions for UT's literary magazine, *Analecta*, serves on the University Bicycle committee and is an active member in the Recycling Task Force, Campus Greens, STOP FTAA and Austin's Anarchist soccer league. He hopes to study the Spring Semester in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Kevin Curry is a senior in business honors and management information systems. This fall he is studying abroad in Ecuador as a Rotary Scholar.

Karen Gonzalez is finishing her master's thesis on audience experience at the Rothko Chapel in Houston, working in the American / Contemporary Art department at the Blanton Museum of Art, and applying to Ph.D. programs in art history. She is hoping to intern at a non-traditional art space in the spring.

Annie Holand has just started her third, and final, year of law school. She is currently serving as the president of the Student Bar Association. Annie has spent the last two summers in Washington, D.C. working for Laura Bush, and hopes to return to the White House following law school.

Corinna Kester is studying abroad in Panama in a program coordinated by the School for International Training. She is studying issues in development and conservation, particularly those related to sustainable technologies like renewable energy. She just finished her thesis on starting the UT Environmental Center and hopes to start a UT Sustainability Committee with faculty, staff, and student involvement when she returns in the spring. She will graduate in May.

René Lara, a lobbyist for the Texas Federation of Teachers, returned to the law school full-time because he says the state is running out of cash, which takes all the fun out of lobbying state legislators.

Rasha Madkour, the current Scrivener, hopes to complete her degrees in journalism, Middle Eastern studies, and Arabic in May. She wrote health news for the *Detroit Free Press* during the summer and is now interning at the *Austin American-Statesman* metro desk.

Paul Navratil is pursuing a Ph.D. in computer science at the University. One day he might catch it. Paul is a Graduate Representative in Student Government and a representative in the Graduate Student Assembly. He serves on several campus committees, and he enjoys quasi-alumnus status in the Tejas Club and the Texas Blazers. Off campus, Paul trains in and instructs martial arts, and he volunteers as a self-defense instructor.

Sarah Tierney, the current Abbot, is a senior in Plan II, computer science, and government. This October she will serve as one of two U.S. delegates to a youth forum of the International Telecommunications Union, an agency of the UN, on technology for social and economic development. She is also a member of the Texas Union Board of Directors, Orange Jackets, and Student Volunteer Board.

Forrest Wilder is a senior in English. He is active in UT Watch, an organization he founded, and Campus Greens.

Fall 2003 Friar Officers

Abbot - Sarah Tierney
Scrivener - Rasha Madkour
Almoner - Nada Antoun
Student Endowed Centennial Lectureship Representative - Jordan Buckley
Friar Centennial Teaching Fellowship Chair - Rob Addy

Friar Reunion Weekend

Mark your calendars for
November 1st-2nd, 2003