

# VENERATIO

The Honors College Newsletter



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## ***Cannot Connect***

### ***WiFi Issues on Campus***

*By Imogen Hofer*

Since the beginning of the school year, internet connection on campus has been shaky at best. From day to day, slow and lagging Wi-Fi has been a problem for countless students. The bigger problem, though, has come to students as mass outages have taken out the internet for extended periods of time. Given the nature of most classes on campus, as well as the norms of our society in general, these kinds of issues have made learning a real problem for many students. Having to adapt a lesson on the fly for a professor who needed the internet connection for their lecture, being stuck without the connection needed to access your canvas assignments, or even trying to talk to your family back home, the less than reliable internet has made functioning on campus difficult for most every student at one point or another.

It is important to note that the Wi-Fi on campus is not bad all the time. There are many days where I, as well as the other students, have no problem using my laptop and phone and get all my work done with ease. Recently, there has been a lack of those campus wide emails that let you know the Wi-Fi is out again and that is why my page has been trying to load for the last twenty minutes, which is great. I interviewed several students, all of whom said that the internet does work for them most of the time. Junior Jose Perez Vela said that when the Wi-Fi has been acting up, he thinks it normally has more to do with “the device you’re using” and is probably a “technical issue that just hasn’t been resolved yet.” The campus internet is not all bad, but the few outages that have occurred this semester have had a significant impact on students.



On September 13th, September 28th, October 4th, and October 11th, campus internet connection, in one way or another, experienced outages, connectivity problems, or slowdowns. Many students, during this time, suffered a major decrease in productivity. Freshman Mason James, who lives on campus, utilizes campus Wi-Fi extremely often. Even though he says that it works most of the time for him, he notes that when it is down “it majorly decreases [his] productivity as [he] cannot complete anything online.” Stephanie Orona, another freshman, echoed the same idea. She, however, also noticed that the connection seems to “lack more in some places than others.” Savannah Fennell, a sophomore, said the same thing. In her experience, the internet connection near the library was not functioning properly, “for two weeks straight...and kept kicking [her] out every five minutes.” Even now, she says, she must “restart [her] computer several times or use the guest Wi-Fi”. I, too, experience these same kinds of issues. I personally spend a lot of time hanging out and working on my homework in this area of campus, and there are many days I barely get one bar or attempt to hook up to my hot spot to get enough connection to work on what I need to. These are just a few examples of the experiences of students who have issues with the internet.

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Rather than just harping on the problems, I decided to also discuss with students how they believed the internet issues could be improved upon. Although many individuals said that they do not know much about how internet connectivity works or what could be done to improve it, a few students provided great ideas. Avery Raygoza-Chaplin, a freshman on campus, believes that “adding more Wi-Fi boosters throughout buildings [on] campus would help.” Similarly, Savannah offered the idea that “set[ting] up more routers near the library and Swift Center” would be a great solution since they are areas where the internet connection seems to lack stability. One of the best solutions I was given came from Jose. He believes we should “emphasize our IT support” so that students can be helped “when[ever] they run into any trouble” and to ensure that their voices are being heard.

Even though internet issues have been a problem across campus for many individuals, I believe it is a problem that they are working diligently to solve. Even though the Wi-Fi may go through an occasional episode where it runs a bit slowly or requires a computer reboot to connect, there have been no major outages in November. As the semester is starting to come to an end, it seems that the internet issues are as well and that, hopefully, campus Wi-Fi will continue to improve and be even stronger as spring semester begins.



# All About the Advocates

## Honors Advocates: Who, How, and Why?

By Eliza West

The Honors Advocates program supports the Honors College and its events by selecting the most involved and committed Honors students to represent and recruit for the College. The Advocates host office hours for Honors students to ask questions, present at events for prospective students, and help execute various Honors events.

Here's a little taste of what the Advocates program entails and how it benefits current students as well as the Advocates themselves:

“I feel like the Honors Advocates are more than just ambassadors and they truly want to see their peers thrive in the Honors College. Yes, they give presentations and recruit students to join Honors – but their biggest impact is showing up for others and always being willing to help out students, regardless of their time here. My favorite part is seeing advocates grow into these leadership and mentor roles within our college and seeing them take ownership of their group.”  
- Bree Baum, M.Ed. (Coordinator II, Special Programs Recruitment and Outreach)



Pictured Above: Bree Baum

“Being an advocate is amazing because it's been helping me get out of my shell and connect more with others and hear about them and their stories. Also, Bree who is in charge of the advocates is amazing. She makes sure everything we do is fun and exciting and not like this is just something we have to do. Every day is fun and a new adventure. Being an advocate also allows me to help people from getting in the Honors College to helping them excel and thrive in it through different outreach events we have.”

- Caroline Soliman (Sophomore, College of Science)



Pictured Above: Caroline Soliman (Sophomore, College of Science)



“The advocate program is really cool; I basically get to sell the Honors program to prospective students and represent the college at different events. It feels great to be able to provide that unique perspective, while being able to teach people about what the College is and what it provides.”

- Andres “August” Plascencia (*Sophomore, College of Architecture and Public Planning Affairs*)

If you are interested in becoming a leader in the Honors College, check out this page for more information on the application process and what it means to be an Honors Advocate!

<https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/honors/current-students/get-involved/honors-college-advocates>

## Feeding Success

### *The Maverick Pantry*

*By Steven Shaw, Photos By Juliet Garrison*

The new Maverick Pantry officially launched in August of this semester and has since seen massive support from donation drives across campus. The pantry has spent the Fall raising awareness and establishing a foothold in the community in preparation for its upcoming grand-opening to students-in-need. Director of Student Advocacy Services Jessica Sanchez and Emergency Assistance Coordinator Alexis Perez founded the pantry with the mission to feed student success by supplying food, hygiene products and more to members of the UTA community seeking help.

Several departments and communities within UTA have hosted food drives and fundraisers to spread the word about the pantry. The Honors College hosted a food drive in late October, receiving massive amounts of donations containing necessities that ranged from peanut butter to toilet paper. Honors students filled five carts with food, giving a total of over 300 items. In addition to donation drives, multiple UTA professors have included “cans-for-credit” extra-credit assignments in their class to contribute to the pantry’s mission. The Maverick Pantry has welcomed the support with open arms and is optimistic about how the program is developing.

The Maverick Pantry is located behind the Pie Five on Spaniolo Dr. and has taken the past few months to undergo renovations in preparation for opening to the campus. Staff and interns have been hard-at-work building the shelves, organizing the inventory and painting the walls of the pantry to turn the space into a fully-functioning charity.



Pictured Above: Andres "August" Plascencia







Sanchez is clear that the mission of the pantry goes beyond providing food to students and faculty who cannot afford groceries for the week. While they want students to feel comfortable coming into the pantry in times of need, they also want to help get students out of food insecurity by addressing the roots of the problems people may be facing.

“Our pillars are education, support and advocacy,” she said. “We want to educate people that a third of college students experience food insecurity and assess the entire situation of what that means. Rather than just looking under the band-aid and putting it back on, let’s rip that band-aid all the way off and figure out what other services and support you need to get you into a better place.”

For more information on the Maverick Pantry’s upcoming events and grand opening visit their Instagram @utamaverickpantry.



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