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# Staff Council SUN

A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER FROM THE  
UTD STAFF COUNCIL

## Fall 2006 CARE Awardees

### *Celebrate Achievement, Reward Excellence*

The Fall 2006 CARE Award recipients were presented their awards at a ceremony in December by President Daniel.

The awardees received a Certificate of Appreciation and a desk clock inscribed with their name.

The CARE Awards are given twice a year to staff who have performed above and beyond their job or have in some way added to the persona of the University by the community and visitors. Nominations are held twice a year, in the fall and the spring.

Deadlines for the Spring 2007 awards is March 31st. Forms to nominate a staff member are available on the Staff Council webpage at [www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil/resources/care.html](http://www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil/resources/care.html).

The awardees for Fall 2006 were: **Debra Marable**, Assistant Chief of Police; **Mickey Choate**, Associate Director, Career Development; **Mary Felipe**, Degree Plan Evaluation, Engineering & Computer Science; **Thi Nguyen**, Cashier Supervisor, Bursar; **Beverly Young**, Administrative Assistant, School of Management; **Megan Greene**, Coordinator for Club Sports and Special Events, Recreational Sports.



**Debra** is always professional, caring, a good listener (listening to all sides), non-judgmental and fair. She has excellent human resource and communication skills and demonstrates them at all times; whether interacting with the public (private citizens), students, staff, faculty or others. Other people like her and she has the respect and confidence of all the officers who work under her direction.

**Mickey** has developed a high level of trust and respect among his peers, employers, students and other campus units. He is very effective in showing empathy and enhancing others self-esteem. He volunteers to present career development information to various campus and community organizations. His tenure, reputation and understanding of UTD systems are valuable assets for the Career Center.

**Mary** has shown passion towards her job as a Degree Plan Evaluator by helping prospective and existing graduate Computer Science students. As one of the first contact points she treats students with great care, and respect. Her knowledge about the department has helped enhance the department's image. She is always happy to take on additional duties when asked.

**Thi** is known as "The Chief" for her leadership abilities. Thi was promoted to chief clerk because of her ability to help people learn tasks quickly and efficiently. Her management style is firm; yet, she leads in a loving manner. She helps student employees feel confident in their tasks. She is always willing to help out and we depend on her implicitly because she will never show a negative attitude, even in the toughest situations.

**Beverly** has been with UTD for 27 years. She handles all requests quickly and efficiently. She follows through on all assignments and has never expressed any negative emotion, only dedication for her job. She is kind and considerate when other people, students, staff or faculty experience difficulties. She treats everyone in a caring yet equitable manner.

**Megan** was nominated because of her coordinator role in Corporate Challenge. It was her dedication, multi-tasking and planning skills that made this year a success. She was honored by the City of Richardson as the "Rookie Coordinator of the Year". Megan's dedication of going above and beyond the required coordinator role and her communication with the faculty and staff raised the campus participation in this important event.

# Chris Dickson Promoted to Sergeant

## *Staff Council chairperson receives well-deserved promotion*

Officer Chris Dickson was promoted to sergeant in January. Along with this promotion, Chris took on new responsibilities. He is now in charge of the Patrol Division's third shift and includes supervising the guards as well.

Anyone who has met Chris knows how devoted he is to the UTD community. Not only is he Chairperson of Staff Council with all the duties associated with that, Chris is also in charge of the C.E.R.T. Team that includes training and holding practical exercises three times a year. With all this to do, Chris somehow finds time to do his job, and apparently, do it well! A well-deserved promotion for a job well done!

Congratulations on your promotion Chris!

## Meet-n-Greet

### *Your opportunity to meet your Staff Council representatives*

We are pleased to announce our first annual Staff Council Meet-n-Greet. This is the tenth anniversary of the Staff Council and we would like to extend an invitation to come and join us in the McDermott Suite (MC 4.4) on March 21 anytime between 2 p.m. and 4p.m. for refreshments and a chance to visit with your Staff Council representatives. Ask questions, voice concerns, and have fun!!

### District 3 Meet-n-Greet

District 3 representatives hosted a meet-n-greet for the District 3 constituents on March 2nd on the mezzanine floor of the McDermott Library outside the Women's Center.

The purpose of this meet-n-greet was to help the employees in McDermott Library, which is in District 3, get acquainted with their Staff Council representatives.

The representatives are Patsy Aguilera, Brenda Mahar, Sue McInis, Paul Oelkrug, Jach Ross, and Nadira Zakhdova.

The District 3 representatives provided popcorn, answered questions, and provided information about Staff Council to those who attended.

Handouts were available as well as displays highlighting Staff Council's accomplishments, programs, and plans.



# Homecoming 2006 Comet Victory Cruise

*Staff Council cruises with UTD spirit*

This year's Homecoming Parade began at 11:00 on Friday, October 28, 2006, and was one of the highlights out of the four days of homecoming events this past year. The theme was Comet Victory Cruise.

The Staff Council entered a float representing the UTD staff, while the rest of the Staff Council showed our support by cheering them on and eating pizza donated by the activities center.

A big thank you to Tricia Losavio and the activities center for the pizza. The weather may have been cold but the pizza and the school spirit were hot!



(left) Staff Council representatives cheer on the homecoming floats.

(right) Tricia Losavio and Michael Griego can't hide their UTD spirit in the U.S.S. Staff Council.





## Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations were extended to the Fall 2006 scholarship awardees at the February meeting of the Staff Council.

The awardees are: **Leia Biholar**, Academic Affairs/Provost; **Michele Dunavin**, General Studies; **Julie Evans**, Undergraduate Education; **Ana Johnson**, Finance Office; **Valerie Lariscy**, Graduate Dean; **Cornelia McCowan**, General Studies; **Elizabeth Samuel**, Records & Registration; **Sandra Wilson**, Interdisciplinary Studies.

## Flu Shots

Flu shots were given to staff and faculty on October 24 & 25, 2006. We would like to thank **Zeke Barrera** and his Department, the **Environmental Health and Safety Office** for subsidizing the flu shots again this year.

Thanks also to everyone who made a contribution. We received \$880.00 in donations. The money collected goes to the Staff Council Scholarship fund. We appreciate your generosity and support of this program for the employees of UTD.

## Fundraising

The Staff Council fund raisers generated over \$2000 from poinsettia sales, cookbook sales, balloon sales, and donations. The ink cartridge recycling effort has brought in over \$1000. All of these revenues have come in during this current academic year, 2006-2007.

The Staff Council thanks everyone who supported the fund raising efforts.

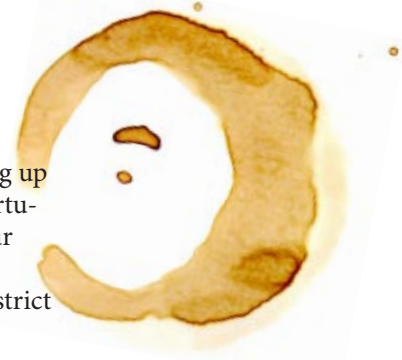
Brought to you by the  
Staff Council Communications Committee

Mike Griego, *Chair*  
Heather Burge  
Sande Goertzen  
Lynn Hovatter

Kim Little  
Cassini Nazir  
Paul Oelkrug  
Kayety Stringer

## Coffee with the President

Coffee with the President is starting up again for this year. It is your opportunity to ask questions and voice your concerns directly with **Dr. Daniel**. Watch your email for times and district information.



## Staff Council Website

Staff Council launched a new and improved website. On it, you can find resources for staff including information on the CARE award, the Staff Council scholarship, tuition and fee waiver, a map for an indoor walking path and much more.

If you have suggestions for Staff Council action, please look on the website for the suggestion form and to be completed and submitted.

Visit the website at [www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil](http://www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil) for more information.

## Preliminary Information about Fiscal Year 2008 Medical Insurance Changes

As this issue goes to press, UT System is waiting to see what the 80th Texas Legislature will decide regarding next year's medical insurance changes. While we hope to have final information ready by the time Annual Enrollment starts on July 1, 2007, here is a glimpse of what the medical plans *may* look like as of September 2007:

- Co-pays for family care *may* increase \$5
- Co-pays for emergency room visits *may* increase
- Co-pays for prescriptions *may* increase \$5
- Co-pays for mail order prescriptions *may* increase
- Out-of-pocket cost of dependent premiums *may* increase 10%

This preliminary information is based on actuarial estimates that our medical costs will increase about 15% through August 2008 and estimates of Legislative action. Once it is clear what the legislature will do this session, the UT System will be able to put together a final plan for the Chancellor's approval. Look for final information to be available after the legislative session ends in May.

### About the UTD Staff Council

The Staff Council is an advisory body through which eligible staff members can convey information and make recommendations to the President regarding interests and concerns of the university staff. The Staff Council is constituted by the President with the goal of continually improving university operations and the well-being of UTD's employees. The Staff Council addresses matters of general concern to the UTD community and, in particular, to members of the UTD staff and is not intended to supplant existing procedures for addressing individual grievances.