

Staff Council SUN Sending-U-News



VOLUME 13 ~ ISSUE 1 ~ DECEMBER 2009

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Note from the Fundraising Committee:



Don't Forget!
If you ordered a
Christmas Cactus or
Poinsettia, make sure
to pick it up on your
scheduled date/time.
Remaining pick-up
information is as follows:

**Dec. 16th, 4-6:30pm
Green Center Patio**

 Also, look for
information
after break about
the Valentine's Day
Chocolate/Balloon
Sales!

PRESIDENT'S GREETING

(Daniel Calhoun, Staff Council President)

Hello everyone and welcome to the first edition of the Staff Council "Sending U News" newsletter for the 2009-2010 term. This is our 13th year of publishing the SUN newsletter. I want to thank our Communications Committee for all their hard work to get this published.

I hope you were able to attend President Daniel's State of Our University Address last month. It was great to see how the university is growing and advancing towards our goals. UT Dallas has a unique challenge of growing student enrollment while maintaining student excellence. It would be easy to lower our standards but the university is committed to sustaining the very high quality of our student body. Along with the student growth, the size of the university's staff and faculty has grown as well. The number of staff positions increased 5.6 percent from the last fiscal year.

The President also highlighted a couple initiatives on campus that I also think are important. The first was a new campus-wide emphasis on customer service. This includes more than just dealing with students. We need to remember that our fellow staff members are also customers. When I visit the Bursar's Office or ask questions from Human Resources, I am a customer. When my department repairs a broken computer, we are providing customer service to the campus. This new program has several facets, including in-class training workshops and special assistance to students on the first day of fall classes. Excellent organizations offer excellent service to their customers, both internal and external.

The second initiative mentioned by President Daniel was the Lean University program. I know there were some concerns initially that "lean" meant fewer employees and staff reductions. This is not the case. The Lean University program seeks greater efficiency by carefully evaluating our work processes. Every step of a process is examined to see if that step is required or adds value to the process. Perhaps a process that required four signatures before can be reduced to two signatures without negatively impacting operations. The review process is long and must involve both the department in charge of the process and all the stakeholders affected. Excellent organizations rely on excellent, efficient processes.

If you did not attend the President's address, you can view the contents online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/news/2009/11/05-002.php>

The Staff Council will still present its annual report and Staff Forum with the President at a later date. I hope you enjoy this issue of the SUN and I thank you for your service to UT Dallas.

Thank you,
Daniel Calhoun



LIVING WELL—“MAKE IT A PRIORITY”

(Jacqueline A. Long)

The Wellness Committee was an ad hoc committee of the Staff Council until this year when it was elevated to university committee status. All of the UT System campuses were asked to initiate wellness programs. Since the Staff Council already had a long established Wellness Committee, we have become the foundation from which UTD’s wellness initiatives will continue as well as a model for other system campuses that had no programs.

UT System has established an interactive website entitled: Living Well; “Make it a priority!” Posted on the site at this time are *Wellness Programs and Services*. They include:

- **Assess & Manage My Health:** Before exploring ways to improve basic health, it is important for you to evaluate your present health and lifestyle.
- **Health Risk Assessment (HRA):** A health risk assessment (HRA) is a questionnaire developed to give you an overview of your health risks and strengths.
- **Improved Preventive Care Coverage:** Your current Wellness and Prevention benefits now include 100 percent colonoscopy coverage under the UT SELECT preventive care program. This means that a colonoscopy performed by a network physician at a network facility will now be available at no cost to you.
- **Top Questions to Ask Your Doctor**
- **FREE Weight Management Program:** available to all UT SELECT members.
- **Conditions Management Recourse:** Check out the Personal Health Manager at Blue Access® for UT SELECT for members to help manage your chronic conditions. (Call 1-800-462-3275)
- **24/7 Nurse hot line**

November 19th was the 34th annual Great American Smoke Out. Research shows that people who stop smoking before age 50 can cut their risk of dying in the next 15 years in half compared with those who continue to smoke. Smokers who quit also reduce their risk of lung cancer – ten years after quitting. The Living Well website links us to the American Cancer Society website with more extensive information about quitting smoking, as well as provides a links to the Free Smoking/Tobacco Cessation Program available to all UT SELECT members.

Finally, visit the UT System wellness website: Living Well; “Make it a priority” and get discounts on health care products and services not usually covered by your health care benefit plan.

www.livingwell.utsystem.edu/myhealth.htm

NEW STAFF MEMBERS (SEPT-NOV 2009)

Charles Amidon
 Damien Aureau
 Ilana Bennett
 Courtney Brecheen
 Hellen Chung
 Katie Croft
 Cynthia Frosch

Magdalena Grohman
 Jeri Hale
 Tierney Hughes
 Meghana Karnik
 Maria Labastida Tovar
 Xiaotu Ma

Emily Martinez
 Stephen McDonnell
 Jesus Mejia Silva
 Saniya Naheed
 Joanna Nelson
 Benjamin Rodriguez, Jr.

Andrew Sloan
 Mathukumalli Vidyasagar
 Rodney Wetterskog
 Chikwang Yu
 Larry Zacharias
 Tao Zheng

Please take a moment to welcome these new members of our UT Dallas community!



CORPORATE CHALLENGE 2009

(Roxanne Minnish)

Thanks to the overwhelming support of the Wellness Committee, UT Dallas earned a SILVER medal in Division BB for their participation in 10 weeks of competition, fundraising and camaraderie amongst 45 other teams from Richardson, Plano and surrounding areas. The events began with two months of competition involving 23 sports and over 8,000 participants.

UT Dallas raised \$1,500 towards the total of \$118,000 donated to Special Olympics Texas, the primary beneficiary of Corporate Challenge. UT Dallas mentors two Special Olympians each year during the Opening Ceremony, Max Adamczyk and Justin Hoover. Max and Justin recently attended the Special Olympics Fall Classic State Tournament in College Station where they competed in bocce ball, bowling and track. Donations from Corporate Challenge make these trips possible for them. Thanks UT Dallas!

Despite the rainy fall, and many reschedules, UT Dallas brought home two gold medals, six silver medals and four bronze medals. Additionally, UT Dallas won the "Spirit Stick" at the Opening Ceremony because of their strong "Comet Pride" and support of Special Olympics.

Catch the Comet Pride next year and show your support of Corporate Challenge and the Special Olympics! Thanks to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause! Go UT Dallas!



DIARY OF A DART RIDER

(Kimberly Kentfield)

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

6:31 am—Pick up Redline at 8th & Corinth

I am so glad to be taking the DART. No traffic for me! Yes, this free DART pass is all I need to keep me on time, on budget and ahead in the world. Taking the DART just twice a week will save me \$35 a month, keep 320 miles off my car, emit .16 tonnes less CO₂ into the atmosphere! (<http://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>)

I picked up my DART pass from the Comet Center after signing up online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/dart/> at the beginning of the year. I better remember to sign up for my 2010 pass. Not only was it convenient to sign up for, but it was even easier to pick up in the 5 to 7 days it took to process. And now I just use it! I was driving 40 miles to and from work each day in my parents' hand-me-down van and inevitably got stuck in traffic no matter what time I left. But now that I take the DART, I have the luxury to read on my daily commute! Since I am a part-time student in the School of Management in addition to being full time staff, I will take advantage of this 'down-time' and read for my classes.

7:24 am—Arrive at George Bush Turnpike

Whoosh, that went fast! I finished a chapter and now I am ready to transfer to my bus. Look at all these other DART commuters. I wonder if any of them are also UTD staff, faculty or students.

7:34 am—Take 883 Bus to UTD

Well there certainly are quite a few UTD folk, but I am surprised by how many other community members also ride the DART. Here we come to campus. What beautiful colors the sun makes on NSERL—that building is so neat and so is the research that they do.

7:44 am—Arrive at UTD

Awesome! I made it and am ready for another great Comet day at UTD! Comet Commuters Unite!

Since Fall 2007, The University of Texas at Dallas has offered a [DART Premium Transit Pass](#) at no cost to all students, faculty, and staff of the University. Applications for the 2010 Pass may be submitted anytime. YOU MUST APPLY USING THE [ON-LINE APPLICATION](#) SUBMITTED FROM YOUR UTD E-MAIL ACCOUNT.

THOUGHTS FROM ALUMNI/STAFF MEMBERS

(Colter Fleming)

There are literally hundreds of UT Dallas alumni who currently work for the University. If you'd like to see your name and a comment or quote in the next issue of the SUN – please email a Staff Council Communications Committee representative.

Judy Patterson, Coordinator of Special Programs, ECS
BA—Interdisciplinary Studies, 1998; MA—Interdisciplinary Studies, 2008

Sherry Marek, Assistant Director, Eugene McDermott Scholars Program
BA—Economics & Finance, 2001; MBA, 2004

Mohammed Rahman, Internship Coordinator, Career Center
BA—Interdisciplinary Studies, 2004

How has UTD changed since you first set foot on campus?

JP—When I graduated in the summer of 1998 our class was the first to graduate from the brand new Activity Center – We had to line up in plastic draped hallways because the auditorium was the only part completely finished for the ceremonies. When I came to main campus ten years ago there was no Computer Science Building, no School of Management Building...the student housing adding a dormitory is very exciting.

SM—UTD was a quiet campus...I love the buzz of more students and construction. It all means progress.

MR—It has grown tremendously.

What is your favorite UTD tradition?

JP—The Holiday Sing and the annual staff recognition awards, 5 yr. plaque, 10 year paperweight and 15 year pen...it is a wise entity that gives recognition to its support staff.

SM—I love Oozeball! People pay a fortune for mud bath therapy, right?

MR—I cannot think of one I had as a student. Since I have only worked here for 6 months so far, I hope to find one as a staff member.

What was your hardest course? Who was your favorite professor?

JP—I loved many of my Professors but Hanna Ulatowska, who by the way I believe was the first woman to become a full professor at this university, is by far the most impressive individual and most dedicated teacher I have ever known...and she's such a Hoot! I love her.

SM—My hardest course was Economics with Dr. Vijverberg. My three favorite professors were Dr. Kaplan, Dr. Woldu, and Dr. Ziegler.

MR—My hardest course was Cognitive Psychology. I still remember feeling overwhelmed with everything that went on in that class. All my instructors were simply awesome, however, it is appropriate to say that Dr. Toja VanBeveren made a great impact on me.



What is your favorite spot/hangout on campus?

JP—I really like my office! I have seen beautiful sunsets ...haven't been here early enough for any sunrises....It's peaceful which is wonderful during the really busy times of inter-acting with my nearly 300 students.

SM—I like the new cafeteria, a.k.a. "the Caf", in our office. I get to have lunch with my students without even planning it!

MR—As a student, I loved hanging out in the Interdisciplinary lounge in the Green Building.

Do you think you see UTD through the lens of a student or a staff member?

JP—Definitely a staff member. I was a serious student...but always a UTD employee first!

SM—When I am out in the community wearing a UTD shirt and someone comments on my UTD shirt I am 100% student/alum. At work, I am a staff member helping UTD grow through my job and my students.

MR—I see it through the lens of a student as I was there not too long ago. And I try to think in ways I can make a difference in the student's life as a UTD staff member.

COOK'S CORNER

(Tineil Lewis)

The holiday season is a time when we can indulge in foods that are sweet, salty, savory, crispy, and are an all around treat for the taste buds. I have gathered a couple special recipes for you and your family to share. The recipes are courtesy of our very own UTD staff! Enjoy!

Pepperoncini Beef in the Crockpot

(Recipe Courtesy of Sherry Marek, Assistant Director Academic Affairs & Provost)

4-6 Lbs Beef Roast
1 4oz package of Lipton Onion Soup Mix
1 14oz jar of yellow pepperoncini peppers.
1 10oz can of chicken broth
1 10oz can of beef broth



Place beef roast in crock pot. Pour Onion soup mix, beef & chicken broths over roast. Cut tops and stems off each pepperoncini pepper, and return them to their original jar in the juice. Pour entire jar of pepperoncini peppers over beef roast and mix with large spoon to blend soups. Cover crock pot and cook on low for 11 hours. The last 1/2 hour of cooking time, take roast out of Crockpot and shred the meat apart with a knife, and return meat to the juices in crock pot for 30 minutes. Serve on your favorite bun/hoagie, extra juice on the side. Serving Suggestion: Sprinkle shredded mozzarella cheese over beef sandwich and microwave for 35 seconds before serving, then spoon additional au jus over the bread!

Blueberry Cheesecake Bars

(Recipe Courtesy of Randi Mogul, Residential Life)

Prep Time: 20 min

Total Time: 50 min

Makes: 2 doz. bars or 24 servings, 1 bar each
6 Tbsp. butter, melted
2 cups HONEY MAID Graham Cracker Crumbs
2 pkg. (8 oz. each) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened
3/4 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. Vanilla
1 jar (10 oz.) blueberry jam/preserves
1 cup blueberries



PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Mix butter and graham crumbs in 13x9-inch baking pan. Press firmly onto bottom of pan. Refrigerate until ready to use.

BEAT cream cheese in large bowl with electric mixer on medium until creamy. Add sugar, eggs and vanilla; beat until well blended. Set aside. Stir jam in jar until softened; spread evenly onto crust. Sprinkle with blueberries; top evenly with the cream cheese mixture.

BAKE 30 min. or until slightly puffed. Cool completely in pan. Cut into 24 bars to serve. Store any leftover bars in tightly covered container in refrigerator up to 3 days.

THE DISCOUNT DIVA

(Tineil Lewis)

Has shopping for holiday gifts got your wallets and purses running for the hills? Don't be alarmed - Discount Diva has arrived with some good news for you! I bet you didn't know that there are ten pages worth of discounts available to UTD faculty and staff. The Comet Discount Program offers faculty, staff and students an opportunity to take advantage of product and service discounts offered by area vendors. Follow the link below for a list of the organizations/websites that offer a discount to UT Dallas Staff...

For the complete discount list, please visit:

<http://www.utdallas.edu/hrm/benefits/facstaff/discount.php5>

COFFEE WITH DR. DANIEL

(Rayna Ruth)

With the growth and changes of this great university come issues and concerns from many staff and faculty. This month Staff Council had the chance to take these issues to Dr. Daniel during the President's Coffee. One of the things Dr. Daniel spoke of was the growth of enrollment during the fall term, which has sparked an increase in state funding as well as the need for more faculty and facilities. He is hopeful that the new buildings on campus will provide room for more classes, labs, and work spaces. Dr. Daniel opened up the floor to our questions with, "The campus is a mess, but when it's all finished it will be worth it."

Staff Council presented the idea of a university attorney much like the attorney available to current students on campus. Currently the university uses attorneys through the UT System who specialize in different areas across the legal spectrum. Staff members have expressed a need for an attorney who could answer day to day questions such as liability concerns for special events. Dr. Daniel provided that the current method is at the moment the most cost effective and efficient way of handling legal matters but that he would present the issue to the cabinet to determine if a campus attorney is needed.

Dr. Daniel has continually stated the goals for the university to move to Tier One status. With these statements comes the question, "What can staff members do to help achieve this goal?" Dr. Daniel reiterated the need for quality and excellence in everything that we do. He reminded us to ask ourselves when looking at a completed task, "Does this reflect excellence?" Passing along information to supervisors and vice presidents where staff is shorthanded or current

procedures are not efficient will ultimately help to improve the campus. Dr. Daniel proposed that simply getting back to the basics of things like answering the phone properly and becoming more customer oriented can really show a student that we strive for excellence.

Another issue Staff Council presented was the need for an event center to accommodate a large mass of students. Dr. Daniel agreed that a space is needed where the university can hold a single graduation ceremony for all seven schools, in addition to other large events. He mentioned that talks of an event center holding close to 8,000 people are in the beginning stages, and he hopes that the university can have a space like this available within the next seven to eight years. Issues such as funding, location, and contracting will have to all be addressed. However, he was adamant that academic needs will have to be met first.

Finally, staff members of UT Dallas have expressed concern that mandated smoking rules are not being followed and should be readdressed. Dr. Daniel stressed that if the smoking rules need to be changed, there will need to be a large initiative from one of the entities on campus such as student government, Staff Council, or faculty. Staff Council agrees that making UT Dallas entirely smoke free could prove almost impossible therefore suggest that the campus could have designated smoking areas that are located in places not close to doorways or pedestrian traffic.

Dr. Daniel appreciates and welcomes staff to voice their concerns to either his office or through Staff Council. If you have suggestions or feel there is an issue that needs to be addressed please contact staff council or your district Staff Council representative.

Did you know...

Staff Council raised over \$3000 in this year's Jail'n'Bail event. This money will support at least 12 staff scholarship awards! Staff Council thanks you for your continued support of our fundraisers and of your fellow student/staffers.

Applications for the Spring Semester scholarship are due February 15, 2010.

More information can be found at
<http://www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil/resources/scholarship.html>.

Staff Council meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 9am in TI Auditorium (ECSS 2.102).

The next meeting is Dec. 9, 2009.

JOIN US!



Student Services Building

GET THE DIRT!

(Chinweolu Greer)

When I first began working here on campus, getting around was fairly easy. A year and two huge cranes later all that has changed dramatically. I remind myself that all of this is for the greater good of UT Dallas as a campus and for our surrounding community. Listed below are a few of the recent and ongoing construction projects that our campus and community will benefit from in years to come:

- New Materials Accumulation Facility has an estimated completion date of December 2009. The building will be located in the Service Compound area.
- Facilities Management Building has been completed and is occupied.
- Construction of the new entry to the Founders North Building.
 - Loop Road (Phase I) and parking Lot R.
 - Renovation of the old kitchen in Founders North for the Science Engineering & Education Center.
 - Project to upgrade the fire safety of the Green Hall atrium.
- Renovation of the kitchen located in the McDermott Suite of the McDermott Library.
- Renovation of the old Physical Plant Building for occupancy by the Police Department.
- Renovation of the old police building for occupancy by Environmental Health and Safety, who moved into the building the week of July 13.
 - Re-roofing of the Engineering/Computer Science North Building.
 - Re-roofing of the Student Union Building.
 - Two new modular buildings for the Arts and Humanities, and one general assignment classroom building.



Math, Science, and Engineering Teaching-Learning Center

"We are transforming this campus at a record pace in both the physical plant and improved system integration. More importantly, we are achieving this with the quality that a Tier One University demands. The journey continues with the UT Dallas confidence and swagger leading the charge!"

-Dr. Calvin D. Jamison, Vice President for Business Affairs

Business Affairs link: <http://www.utdallas.edu/businessaffairs/bulletin/> has all the latest updates on construction going on around campus as well as other information for the UT Dallas community.



**2009-2010 Staff Council
Officers and Executive Board**

Daniel Calhoun, President
 Tricia Losavio, Vice President
 Rena Read, Secretary
 Darlene Coppage, Fundraising Chair
 Chaney Edwards, Benefits Chair
 Colter Fleming, Communications Chair
 Carol Lanham, Staff Development Chair

2009-2010 Staff Council Committees

Benefits Committee

Katrina Adams	Tysh Coleman
Chaney Edwards	Tommi Ivey
Remona McLain	Michelle Sancen
Morgan Shockey	Lori Skillestad

Communications Committee

Carole Abbott	Caroline Crossley
Colter Fleming	Lisa Garza
Chinweolu Greer	Kimberly Kentfield
Tineil Lewis	Jacqueline Long
Rayna Ruth	

Fundraising Committee

Paula Austell	Lynne Boyer
Darlene Coppage	Erin Dougherty
Sharon Edwards	Patrice Holt
Randi Mogul	Lonny Yarborough

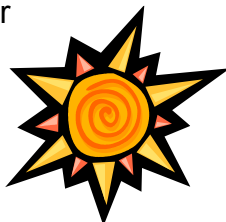
Staff Development Committee

Metta Alsobrook	JB Barnes
Arturo Elizondo, Jr.	Carol Lanham
Laurinda Lara	Jennifer Orme
Judy Patterson	Yolande Porter
Misty Williams	



Visit us online at
www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil.
**Complete our online Suggestion
 Form or contact one of your
 district reps.**

**Staff Council—
 Working for YOU!**



About the UT Dallas 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 staff of the University. The Staff Council is constituted by the President under the discretion and authority invested in the President by the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System, with the goal of continually improving University operations and the well-being of UTD's employees. The Staff Council is constituted to address 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.

**Brought to you by the
 Staff Council
 Communications Committee!**

