

# Staff Council SUN Sending-U-News



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## Staff Council Elections

Ever thought about  
joining Staff Council?

OR

Know someone in your  
department who might  
be a perfect fit?

Staff Council elections  
are coming up SOON!  
Talk to a current Staff  
Council rep and be on  
the lookout for a **2010-  
2012 Nomination  
Petition** for your District.  
For more information  
about Staff Council visit:  
[http://www.utdallas.edu/  
staffcouncil/](http://www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil/)

## **PRESIDENT'S GREETING**

*(Daniel Calhoun, Staff Council President)*

Greetings and welcome to another issue of the Staff Council SUN Newsletter.

I want to publicly thank all the people across our campus that help support the Staff Council. Certainly I want to thank the elected Staff Council representatives for volunteering their time and efforts. But I would also like to thank their supervisors, managers, and Vice Presidents who allow them to serve.

The Staff Council is an important organization to our university – like the Faculty Senate and Student Government. None of these organizations can function without dedicated volunteers committed to improving UT Dallas. The Staff Council also depends on supervisors who understand that supporting the Staff Council strengthens their employee, their department, and the university. It is not a matter of doing your job **plus** working for the Staff Council; working for the Staff Council is a **part** of your job when you get elected.

The UT Dallas Policy that created the Staff Council grants each Staff Council member six hours per month during regular business hours to work on Staff Council business, including meeting attendance. This excused time is critical for us. I have been on both sides of that coin – both the supervisor of a Staff Council representative and making arrangements with my supervisor to conduct Staff Council business. Those discussions between representative and supervisor need not be confrontational but the issue should be discussed before a staff person seeks a Staff Council nomination.

In May, we will be opening the nomination period for the 2010-11 Staff Council. I encourage you to nominate someone (maybe even yourself) who is truly interested in strengthening UT Dallas through an active, involved Staff Council. But, don't think that Staff Council service is just a nice bullet point on a resume or a chance to sneak away from the office. It requires time and it requires a commitment. And it certainly requires a supervisor committed to the same goals.

Thank you Staff Council representatives past and present and thank you to all your supervisors who have supported us for over ten years.

Until next time,  
Daniel Calhoun

# Save the Date! Staff Appreciation Day June 30, 2010

Look for more information coming soon.  
Some highlights of the day will include:

- Staff Council Forum
- Remarks by Dr. Daniel
- Food/Games/Giveaways

## “CERT”AINLY PREPARED!

(Kimberly Kentfield)



A natural disaster, an act of terrorism, or the structural collapse of a building here on our campus are just a few of the catastrophic scenarios that the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trains to be prepared for so that we - students, staff and faculty alike - are all safer for it.



In fact, as part of the CERT training program, participants learn how to prepare and protect themselves, their families and their communities in the event of an emergency. Learning everything from what goes into a personal preparedness kit to how to respond and access a potentially dangerous situation when first responders are on the way but may be overloaded with the sheer catastrophe that has just taken place.



As a recent graduate of the certification I cannot stress the importance and timeliness of this program. I had fun meeting other members of the UT Dallas community and I love my green hard hat and vest! My classes took place twice a week in the evening and were full of students, staff and faculty who just wanted to be a helping hand in a time of need. The hurricanes in Galveston and the tragedy at Virginia Tech are just a few recent incidences that show the importance of having an educated community group who are able to safely respond with confidence to emergencies.

— — — — —  
**The next CERT training classes will be held in June.**

**Register by emailing [cert@utdallas.edu](mailto:cert@utdallas.edu).**

**All are welcome!**

**For more information check out their website:**

**<http://www.utdallas.edu/ehs/emergency/cert.html>**

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

*(Darlene Copping, Fundraising Committee Chair)*



### MARK THE DATE!

Third Annual Staff Council Jail-N-Bail Fundraiser at the Cometville Carnival –  
**Wednesday, August 25, 2010.**

All proceeds go to the Staff Council Staff Scholarship Fund and the UT Dallas General Student Scholarship Fund. Is there a “special” someone you want to have “arrested?” A lot of fun....and maybe a few surprises. So far we have raised a total of \$13,000... Help us double that amount this year!



### THANK YOU!

We send a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped our fundraising efforts in February by purchasing Valentine chocolates. In spite of the surprise snow storm, and not being able to include heart shaped balloons, we raised enough money to cover the cost of the candy and were still able to put \$376.43 into the Staff Council Staff Scholarship Fund!



Dwight Clasby, Assistant Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations, at 2009 Jail-N-Bail event.

# HAVE YOU USED YOUR DART PASS TODAY?

(Kimberly Kentfield)

Since Fall 2007, UT Dallas has offered a [DART Premium Transit Pass](#) at no cost to all students, faculty, and staff of the University. The DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) Pass is an annual pass program that permits the bearer unlimited access to all DART services: local and express buses as well as Light Rail. Additionally, riders have unlimited access to services of the Trinity Railway Express and The "T", Fort Worth's public transit system. The Transit Pass Program works in cooperation with UT Dallas's [campus bus system](#), Route 883, to encourage greater utilization of efficient and environmentally-friendly transportation. The program is supported by the student body through a student transportation fee in addition to a subsidy from University Administration. Applications for the 2010 Pass may be submitted anytime. YOU MUST APPLY USING THE [ON-LINE APPLICATION](#) SUBMITTED FROM YOUR UTD E-MAIL ACCOUNT.

Please see below for an interview with 2 UT Dallas staff members who take advantage of this great service.

Name	Ryan Arnold	Kim Kentfield
Years of Service at UT Dallas	4.5 yrs (2.5 as a student in the Student Union, 2 yrs at Media Services)	2.75 yrs (2 years at Center for Brain Health, 8 months on Main Campus)
Department	Media Services	Eugene McDermott Scholars Program
Route	Busses 883 & 451	8th & Corinth Redline Rail & 883 Bus
Trip Duration	40 minutes	90 minutes
How long have you been a DART rider?	2 years	2.5 years; consistently—4 months
How often do you ride the DART?	Everyday	Twice a week
Have you always used public transportation?	Not as regularly in the past.	More regularly in the past.
What is your motivation?	It's cheap - FREE with UTD ID - and no car for alternative transportation.	Save money, be green, and be productive on the train instead of sitting in traffic - I am also a part-time MBA student here at UTD!
Where did you hear about the FREE DART pass?	In the Mercury	SUN newsletter
How do you use the DART?	Take to work and go downtown with friends.	Go to work, downtown, State Fair, Whiterock Lake, and generally like to use it instead of looking for parking.
Have you noticed any changes in your life?	A bit better at managing my time (the only reason to be late is if the bus is late).	On time more, appreciate schedules that are followed, better at being prepared, am a better student (read on the train), know more about Dallas geography.
Tips for fellow DART riders	Make sure you have enough of a time buffer in between one bus and the next so you don't miss it.	Bring something read or listen to and make the most of your time.

## COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

(Jacqueline Long)

The Committee for the Support of Diversity and Equity is a university-wide standing committee reporting directly to the President of UT Dallas. Its charge is to *discuss issues that affect the institutional status, professional effectiveness and personal morale of women, minorities, and members of underrepresented groups in full and part-time faculty and staff positions.* The committee meets at least six times a year and invites the President to meet with them annually.

On April 14th, the committee met with Dr. Daniel who offered personal, professional experiences that help lay the back drop for his commitment to creating and maintaining an environment that embraces diversity and inclusion. He opened the floor for issues and feedback from committee members. A major discussion proceeded concerning diversity in faculty hiring. Effective practices and possible strategies were offered. A consensus of committee members felt a review and focus on the search committee process may provide an avenue to address hiring concerns for faculty and staff as well.

At the last committee meeting, Human Resources reported their statistical findings on the state of diversity practices at UT Dallas according to federal government guidelines. There were areas where UT Dallas rated "needs improvement" and those areas were discussed with Dr. Daniel. Also mentioned was the impact of delays in financial aid processing on the recruitment of students, not just those of minority backgrounds.

Finally, a report on the success of this year's Diversity Lecture Series was given that included cost and attendance figures. Suggestions for next year included adding diversity training workshops and bring in academic scholars that can present research findings from which future diversity programs and initiatives can be based.

*Eight (8) staff members serve on the Diversity & Equity Committee: Danny Cordova, Arthur Gregg, Jacqueline Long, Randi Mogul, Alex Nestor, Yolande Porter, Vivian Rutledge, Andrea Wagner.*

### Diversity Awards



Staff Council Member, Paula Austell with Dee Ellington.

One of the major efforts of the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement this year was to establish criteria for Diversity Awards. Committees were formed by Staff Council, the Faculty Senate, and Student Government to draw up applicant criteria and volunteers throughout campus assisted in the process. The award recipients were announced and celebrated at the Inaugural Diversity Awards Gala and Scholarship Fundraiser held at UT Dallas on Saturday, April 17, 2010. Here are the recipients:

**STAFF DIVERSITY AWARD** – Deidria Ellington, Director of Recruiting for SOM

**LIFETIME DIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARDS** –

- Abby Kratz, EdD; Chair/Organizing member of the Committee for Diversity and Equity
- Betty Pace, MD, Director of the Sickle Cell Disease Research Center
- David L. Ford, PhD; Professor of Organizational Studies, Strategy, and International Management in SOM
- Ming Dong Gu, PhD; Director of Confucius Institute and Professor of Chinese & Comparative Literature
- Rodolfo H. Guerrero, PhD; Director of the Center for U.S. – Mexico Studies.

**STUDENT DIVERSITY AWARD** – Elizabeth Barta, Pre-med neuroscience major; Orientation Team Leader, First Year Leader for RHET 1101, & Student Ambassador

**CORPORATE DIVERSITY AWARD** –AT & T Foundation for its support of student success with a \$220,000 contribution to the Academic Bridge Program and the university's new College Readiness Initiative.

## CLASS OUTLINE—COFFEE WITH DR. DANIEL

(Colter Fleming)

On Tuesday, March 9th 2010 President Daniel held the first of two coffee sessions for the spring semester in conjunction with the Staff Council. Approximately 10 staff members were in attendance. All arrived early to enjoy coffee, fruit and pastries... and to make sure we weren't late!

Dr. Daniel greeted everyone and opened right away with the proverbial elephant in the room, a topic that may or may not have been on everyone's mind, but certainly seemed to be on his... the budget. The conversation moved into the legislature, tuition, enrollment, construction, and the future of UT Dallas. The following summary gives you a basic outline of the morning meeting for those who weren't in attendance. I had my coffee, a few others had theirs, and at that point, class was in session...

So what about the whole state budget thing?

- 5% state budget cut issued by the legislature
- At UTD -- 60% of income comes from tuition/ 40% of income comes from state funding
  - ⇒ To cut 5% of 40% feels more like ~2% -- well positioned.

Dialogue shifted slightly as policy and the legislature became more of the focus...

- Public universities hoped that institutions of higher education would have been exempt from budget cuts
- State appropriations toward higher education have seen a gradual decline over last 30 years across the US -- Showing transfer of responsibility from public good to private benefit -- a large change in national public policy.

What can UT Dallas do to stay competitive?

- Public universities that act like private ones will be successful.
  - ⇒ Example: University of Michigan— Slightly higher tuition; attracts out of state students; maintains a higher endowment.
- Two ways UTD is already succeeding and acting differently than our 'competition.'
  - ⇒ Tuition – Fixed four year rate – truth in advertising. Tuition is not cheaper -- just predictable.
  - ⇒ Community College – Comet Connection Program

UTD is growing...

- Enrollment—Applications are up 3-4% showing slow and steady enrollment growth – on target.
- Campus Infrastructure
  - ⇒ MSET should open June 19th
  - ⇒ Founders sometime this summer
  - ⇒ Student Services in August
  - ⇒ Visitors Center and Bookstore hopes to break ground this calendar year
  - ⇒ ATEC hopes to break ground early 2011
  - ⇒ Timing is key to minimize disruption to the main mall area
  - ⇒ In the future, other projects that concern UTD include:
    - an energy plant, close to Floyd Road
    - a City of Richardson bond package for construction of a loop road around UTD to minimize traffic through campus
    - Renaming UTD roads and streets with Regent approval

Tier 1... we hear a lot about it...

- UTD is 'pound for pound close to if not already top tier', but our scale is smaller than others.
- Dallas/Fort Worth -- best location in the country at the current moment.
- UTD has a great sense of urgency – but let's be patient with results, while being impatient with moving forward with our goals.

Dr. Daniel concluded the meeting by insisting that we expect, and moreover demand excellence in our departments. Excellence has been a major motivation and modus operandi throughout the morning talk, and really as long as I've heard him speak to groups at UT Dallas. Quite inspiring. I went back to my office to spread the contagious message. Class dismissed.

Thanks to Staff Council President, Daniel Calhoun and UT Dallas President, Dr. David Daniel for collaborating efforts to put together a coffee hour in which we can learn more about the place that we work and in some cases have or will attend university. We have unique access to our President here at UT Dallas.

***For more information regarding upcoming President's coffees, contact a Staff Council representative.***

## STAFF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

(Lisa Garza)

Every fall and spring semester, Staff Council awards several \$250 scholarships to UT Dallas staff members. The scholarship was developed to assist in furthering the education of any and all UT Dallas staff members in academic or vocational programs. Please take a minute to meet several recent scholarship winners and read how the scholarship has impacted them.



**Debbie Buckner**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
**School of Interdisciplinary Studies**

Graduate Student, Interdisciplinary Studies, Graduating May 2013

"The Staff Council Scholarship is the first Scholarship I have ever received in all my years of pursuing a higher education; receiving it made paying for my education more affordable in today's economy."



**Kimberly Kentfield**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**Eugene McDermott**  
**Scholars Program**

MBA Student,  
Graduating May 2013

"Receiving the Staff Council Scholarship has allowed me to have the funds available to pay for my education. Whether the scholarship pays for the semester's books, the additional gas mileage associated with coming back to school for those extra study group sessions on the weekends or contributes to tuition each semester - it has allowed me to afford to go to school. When Staff Council supports its peers in pursuing higher education it sends a strong message of what 'customer appreciation' is at The University of Texas at Dallas."



**Blair Flicker**  
**Research Manager**  
**Center for Vital Longevity**

MBA Student, Graduating December 2012

"This semester, my courses required several expensive text books. The Staff Council Scholarship really helped with these costs. I really appreciated receiving the Staff Council Scholarship because it

made me feel supported in my pursuit of an MBA. The knowledge that many people collaborated on various fund raising events on my behalf inspires me to get the most out of my education."

**Staff Council Scholarship applications are available online at**  
**<http://www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil/resources/scholarship.html>**

**The fall application deadline is September 15, 2010.**

## WHAT IS THE EAC?

The UT System Employee Advisory Council (EAC) is working for you. Three times a year - March, July and October - the group meets as a collective body to discuss issues of importance to UT System employees. The EAC is designed to provide a forum for communicating ideas and information between employees, the Board of Regents, and the Executive Officers of UT System.

Current members from UT Dallas are Colter Fleming and Rochelle Pena.

For more information, contact a member and visit the website:

<http://www.utsystem.edu/eac/>

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

**The next meeting is Wednesday, May 12, 2010.**

**JOIN US!**

## Attention City of Richardson Residents

Early voting has begun and runs through May 4 for the City of Richardson's \$66 million bond election. *Election Day is May 8.*

The bond election will have 4 propositions. *Proposition 1 includes \$2.8 million in roads for UT Dallas.*

The City of Richardson has developed a website at <http://www.cor.net/Bond/2010Bond.aspx?id=11894>, which includes details about the propositions, a PowerPoint presentation, and even a video explaining the bond proposals.

Richardson voters (Dallas and Collin County) can vote early at the Richardson Civic Center/City Hall or at any other early-voting location in Dallas County. On Election Day (May 8), polls will be open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. at 22 locations throughout the City.

For information about voting locations, visit [www.cor.net](http://www.cor.net), call the Richardson City Secretary's office at 972-744-4292, or the Dallas County Elections Department at 214-637-7937.

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



### 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.