

**In this issue**      **Page**

President's Greeting.....1  
Annual Poinsettia Sale.....2  
Wellness Committee.....2  
CARE Awards.....3  
Homecoming.....3  
State of the University.....4  
Corporate Challenge.....5  
Campus Enhancement.....5  
Coffee with Dr. Daniel.....6

# Staff Council SUN Sending-U-News



VOLUME 14 ~ ISSUE 1 ~ NOVEMBER 2010

## **PRESIDENT'S GREETING**

*(Rochelle Pena)*

It has been a busy fall semester! With all of the physical moves and the much anticipated switch over to PeopleSoft, our jobs are keeping us all on our toes. As this is my first letter to the staff, I'd like to congratulate everyone on your continued hard work and commitment to the growth of the University. I know things wouldn't operate as smoothly as they do without such a strong staff.

As the newest President of Staff Council, one of my personal goals is to make sure all staff are aware of the work of Staff Council and to get you engaged in our mission. Part of our mission includes the "goal of continually improving University operations and the well-being of UTD's employees." We can't do that without your help! I am encouraging all Staff Council elected members to do more personal outreach to their districts. I want them to get to know more about you and your professional needs. I ask that you, our constituents, participate in our activities, share your suggestions, and help us to continually make this a better place to work.

Staff Council is working on ways to better communicate with you. You can always email us at [staffcouncil@utdallas.edu](mailto:staffcouncil@utdallas.edu) or visit our webpage at [www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil](http://www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil). We are aware of staff concerns regarding the inability to send mass emails and there are currently alternative options for campus wide communication. Please continue to send your suggestions, either online or via email. One of the best ways you can let your voice be heard is to attend one of our meetings. Meetings happen the second Wednesday of every month at 9am in the TI Auditorium and all are welcome. On December 8<sup>th</sup> President Daniel will be the guest speaker. Please join us!

In closing, I hope to see you at one of our upcoming council meetings. Thank you again for all you do. Remember—Staff Council is working for you!

### **DON'T FORGET:**

**Order your holiday plant  
TODAY!**

Go to [http://  
alumni.utdallas.edu/  
netcommunity/staffcouncil](http://alumni.utdallas.edu/netcommunity/staffcouncil)

**Nominate one of your  
peers for a CARE Award!**

Go to [http://www.utdallas.edu/  
staffcouncil/resources/  
care.html](http://www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil/resources/care.html)

## ANNUAL STAFF COUNCIL POINSETTIA & CHRISTMAS CACTUS SALE



The order form for Annual Staff Council Poinsettia and Christmas Cactus Sale was released to the UT Dallas faculty and staff on November 2, 2010. Funds raised by the annual event will benefit the Staff Council Scholarship Fund. Faculty and staff alike can order poinsettias in red, pink or white, and/or the Christmas cactus. For the first time, faculty and staff can order online to purchase the plants by using credit cards.

**Order yours TODAY!**

<https://alumni.utdallas.edu/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=408>

**The deadline to place orders is this Friday, November 19.**



If you have questions, please contact Paula Austell, the chair of the Fundraising Committee. She can be reached in MP 3.202, at [paustell@utdallas.edu](mailto:paustell@utdallas.edu) or 972-883-5382. You may also contact any member of the Fundraising committee: Natalie de Leon, AB 1.710, Sharon Edwards, WSTC 2.202, Colter Fleming, MC3.206, Kimberly Kentfield, MC3.202, Tineil Lewis, SU 2.506, Kara Leonard, HH2.406, Victoria Winters, FO 3.608, or Melissa Wyder, SS 3.200.

**Don't forget to pick-up your plants!**  
**Plants can be picked up in Parking Lot G behind Green Center on 12/3 or 12/15 from 4-6pm.**

## WELLNESS COMMITTEE NEWS

*(Lydia Blackwell)*

The University of Texas at Dallas Wellness Committee is here to create a culture and environment that support and promote the value of individual well-being by education and the provision of appropriate physical facilities. The Committee provides many resources to enable employees to take charge of their own physical, mental and spiritual health. In fact, the staff and faculty of UTD and the Committee just completed the Corporate Challenge. We placed 4th in our division!

Here are some upcoming Wellness Committee events:

January 13, 2011—Mammogram Van

January 20 – April 29, 2011—Live Healthy Dallas, 100-Day Challenge

The Wellness Committee is interested in helping us kick the smoking habit and is encouraging smokers to participate in the Great American Smokeout on November 18, 2010. The Committee has many other events and programs in the works. If you would like more information on the UTD Wellness Committee, past and upcoming events, the website is [www.utdallas.edu/wellness](http://www.utdallas.edu/wellness).

## CARE AWARDS

Staff Council manages the CARE Awards program and accepts nominees every fall and spring. This program recognizes staff who have demonstrated superior performance, offered outstanding customer service, and performed acts which have enhanced the image of the University. CARE stands for Celebrate Achievement Reward Excellence. We welcome nominees by faculty, staff, students, visitors, and any other UT Dallas customers.

Nominees must:

- Be a regular employee, appointed at least 50% for at least 4 1/2 months
- Have been employed beyond the probation period, usually six months
- Be a staff member (non-faculty) below the level of Vice President

**The fall nomination deadline has been extended!  
Nominations are due on November 30, 2010.**

For more information and to nominate a staff member, please go to  
<http://www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil/resources/care.html>

## HOMECOMING 2010

### “WHOOSH AROUND THE WORLD”

*(Chinweolu Greer)*

Homecoming activities include a parade, pep rally, tailgate party, and other activities, and culminate with men's and women's basketball games. Although it has taken on many shapes and forms over the past years, Homecoming has always ended with the SUAAB sponsored Dance and Casino Night on Saturday night. Casino Night is a long-standing tradition at UT Dallas that features slot machines and blackjack, poker and roulette tables. Games are played for tickets that are redeemed for a chance to win prizes. Check out some highlighted events below:

#### **Nov. 17th—Mum/Spirit Shop**

Student Union-Galaxy Room 2.602

10am-5pm

\*Visit the Comet Spirit Shop to create mums, spirit sticks and signs to get pumped for the Spirit Rally and Basketball games.

#### **Nov. 19th—Homecoming Parade**

Rutford Avenue

12:15pm-1:15pm

\*Students, faculty and staff build floats based on the homecoming theme, Whoosh Around the World. During the parade, each float stops to perform a skit before a panel of judges. The traditional Homecoming Picnic follows immediately after the parade.



**Please visit the Homecoming website for more information:**

<http://www.utdallas.edu/homecoming/>

# STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

(Mary Jo Venetis)

Dr. Daniel provided faculty, staff and students the annual State of the University Address on Nov. 3, 2010. He provided a list of 9 goals:

- Strive for excellence at a national competitive level
- Increase student enrollment
- Expand faculty
- Improve retention and graduation rates
- Expand degree programs
- Increase research and doctoral production
- Tell our story
- Raise private money
- Manage costs

Student enrollment has increased by 18% from 2005, and to achieve Tier One status, it needs to increase to 21,629 in 2017. Dr. Daniel wants to reduce the brain drain by keeping students who will turn into employees in the state of Texas, ideally in the UT Dallas community areas. That's another reason why Dr. Daniel wants to see the retention/graduation rates increase.

Also important to our Tier One initiative, Dr. Daniel has tasked Dr. Wildenthal to increase faculty from the current rate 444 to 610 by 2017. Staff will increase from 2,403 to 3,127 by 2017. Dr. Daniel wants to increase diversity across the board.

Although this was a record year for private fundraising, reaching over \$40.7 million, the University hopes to raise more private money to cover the declining state funding. That led to a discussion of cost management where Dr. Daniel noted that it is important to support students and their needs while they attend school; that remains a top priority.

In order to find revenue, everyone at UT Dallas needs to find methods to manage or reduce costs. For example, electricity is one area that everyone could strive to reduce by turning off computers, light features, and even telephone chargers when not in use. Dr. Daniel mentioned the possibility of having our state funding reduced by 5-15% pending the state legislature's requirements, and views this as an opportunity to strengthen our programs by reducing or eliminating anything that is not "mission critical." He will also assess the administration to see if there are any overlapping tasks and reduce them, and expects everyone to do the same. He believes that many functions could be consolidated for a leaner and sustainable university as a way to manage the overall costs.

\*\*Go to <http://www.utdallas.edu/president/speech/> to view the entire slideshow for Dr. Daniel's presentation.

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

**The next meeting is  
Wednesday, December 8, 2010.**

**Guest Speaker—Dr. Daniel  
JOIN US!**



# CORPORATE CHALLENGE 2010

(Mary Jo Venetis)



Approximately 250 UT Dallas employees participated in the 2010 Corporate Challenge. The annual event is hosted by the City of Richardson to support the Special Olympics of Texas with many competition events held between August and October 2010. Even Temoc participated in the opening ceremonies! UT Dallas's overall standing in Division BB was 4<sup>th</sup> and we've already vowed to reclaim at least our 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2011! Our gold medal teams this year were in Badminton, Swimming, and Volleyball. Congratulations!

The overall standings in Division BB were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> = TriQuint Semiconductor, Inc.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> = Concentra Inc.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> = AmerisourceBergen Specialty Group
- 4<sup>th</sup> = UT Dallas
- 5<sup>th</sup> = CA
- 6<sup>th</sup> = Hilton
- 7<sup>th</sup> = Convergys

For additional information about the Corporate Challenge, see <http://www.utdallas.edu/wellness/corporate-challenge.html> and for more scores, check out <http://www.quickscores.com/cc/>.

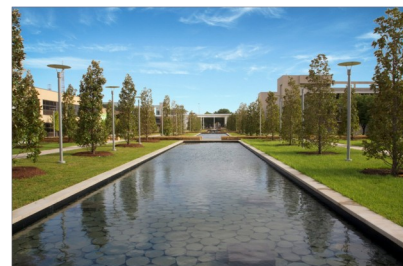


# CAMPUS ENHANCEMENT

(Michelle Sancen)

"It is a new era at UT Dallas, and this place is unlike any other ever experienced."

Campus enhancement continues at UT Dallas. Recently we have seen the grand opening of the Student Services Building, the Founders Renovation, the Science Learning Center and the Mall beautification with reflecting pools, a large trellis and circular fountain and mister. Go to <http://www.utdallas.edu/enhance/> to visit the interactive UT Dallas Campus Enhancement webpage to view points of interest, a gallery of stunning images, and learn more about how UT Dallas is entering a new era.



Construction continues on campus. Visit the UT Dallas "Pardon Our Progress" webpage at: <http://www.utdallas.edu/pardonourprogress/> for up to date information on construction and related disruptions, as well as view current maps and directions to specific venues.

## COFFEE WITH DR. DANIEL—11/16/10

(Lisa Garza)

Dr. Daniel once again welcomed several staff members to share coffee with him and talk about current campus issues. He opened the discussion with a review of the budget issues he had talked about in his recent State of the University address. He said he will be finding out more information and the university community should expect a budget announcement within the next several days. His main concern at the present time is managing the state budget situation, but he feels, as he's said all along, that we are well positioned. He went on to mention a few more points from his University-wide address and stated that this has been a record-breaking year for UT Dallas in a number of ways.

When asked if the PeopleSoft project was still scheduled to go live on December 1st, Dr. Daniel was reluctant to give a solid response. He assured the group that the university won't go live unless we're certain the system and the university are ready. He knows that there have been concerns throughout campus and agrees that some campus-wide communication regarding the status of the project is necessary.

Another question was related to parking, and Dr. Daniel said he gets more questions about parking than about anything else! Decisions related to the large lots east of campus are on-hold until the planned loop road is designed. Also, additional parking near/around SOM are being examined. It was very important to Dr. Daniel that everyone knows there is no movement to eliminate free visitor parking on campus. Although he would like to see more pay-to-park lots available, the goal of this is to make parking more convenient for occasional visitors. Officials are also looking at ways to make access to/from ROC and WSTC more convenient.

Dr. Daniel addressed a question about possible tuition increases. Tuition is already set for next fall (since it's set every 2 years), however he is unsure whether the Board of Regents will revisit this due to the current economy. Dr. Daniel did confirm UT Dallas has the highest tuition for a state school in Texas, but he doesn't apologize for this. "Excellence comes at a cost," he says. Relating this back to the budget discussion, he says that further decreases in state funding with no increases in tuition lead to overall decreases in quality—and he will fight that! He is, however, sensitive to the financial needs of students and their families, and commented that as tuition increases, so do the opportunities for financial aid.

Staff email communication capabilities were also discussed at the meeting. Susan Rogers, VP for Communication, was in attendance. Although the discussion centered mostly on Staff Council's communication efforts, the message was the same. The University encourages all staff to make use of the Comet Calendar and all related media for communication about events and activities. Dr. Daniel and Ms. Rogers both understand the difficulty in transitioning from such a heavy dependence on email. Dr. Daniel commented that as we grow, at some point the way we used to do things doesn't make sense anymore. Ms. Rogers encourages all staff/departments/organizations to make use of social media when possible, and she strongly encourages the use of personalized email lists. She mentioned that her office is ready and willing to provide assistance to individuals/offices as needed regarding their communication options.



**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.