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## June 2020



### An Interview with Jill Brandenburg

Jill has worked at UTD her entire adult life. In fact, she will soon celebrate her 20th anniversary at UTD. [Read more](#)



### Staff Council Facebook

Your Communications Committee is trying to promote issues pertaining to staff by way of its [Facebook page](#). If you have anything you'd like to share, including photos, please send to [Carrilaine Schneckner](#).

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## Main Gymnasium Makeover

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The University is taking advantage of campus closure to complete work in the Activity Center. The Main Gymnasium, a site that hosts athletic events, graduation, convocation, orientations, career fairs, talent shows, and more, is being renovated. The upgrades include a new floor and a fresh coat of paint in the new UTD colors and new graphics. The floor, which was over 20 years old, had been patched many times in recent years; Comet athletes and recreation participants will benefit tremendously from a new surface. This project will span 8-12 weeks, and the gym will be ready to use for the fall semester.

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## Sun Safety Workshop

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Summer is here and so is the heat of the sun! Take your lunch break with us and learn about Sun Safety. Presented by the Student Wellness Center and hosted by the UTD Campus

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## Cloth Face Covering Distribution

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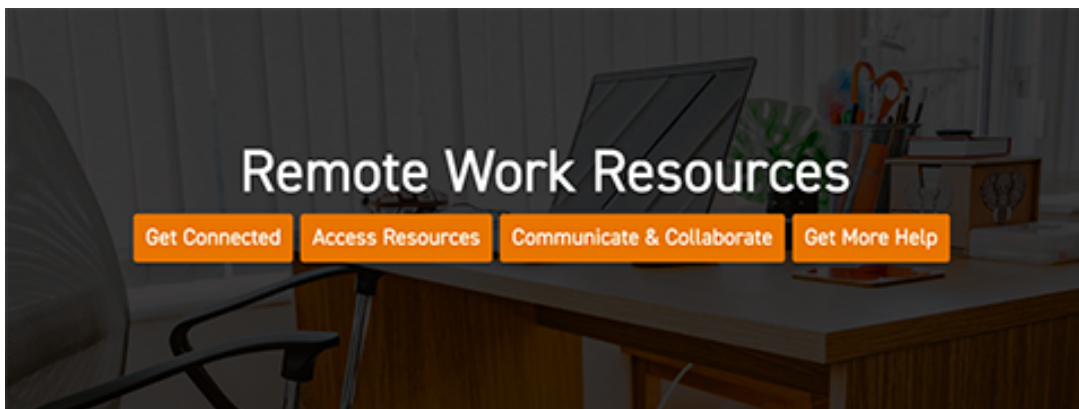


Many UT Dallas employees must remain on campus in order to continue fulfilling essential functions, such as providing dining services to students living in University Housing. In response to the face mask shortage, volunteers across campus have launched the Make a Mask project. The project aims to provide two reusable, washable face covers to employees who are regularly on campus for their jobs. [Read more](#)

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## OIT Remote Work Resources

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The University's Office of Information Technology (OIT) has created pages that contain information and links to resources for working remotely.

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## Student Emergency Fund

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Some UT Dallas students are experiencing food insecurity, job loss and other issues. Help students in need by donating to the UT Dallas Student Emergency Fund and Comet Cupboard.

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## Remembering Alejandro Acero Murillo

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Written by Anthony Galvan  
Associate director, Institute for Urban Policy Research

We are saddened to report that we recently learned of the passing of our friend and colleague Alejandro Acero, research associate with the Institute for Urban Policy Research at UT Dallas. The days since his passing have been a whirlwind of grief and heartache, a poignant reminder of our social distance. We are heartbroken.

Alejandro joined our team in 2015 shortly after graduating from Brown University with a double major in economics and public health. He was an active member of the UT Dallas community and recently completed his first year of graduate studies in the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

Alejandro was a warm person. Quirky and cheerful, he rode his bike to work every day like he didn't know he lived in Texas. His wit and banter made the office more enjoyable, and his keen observation of the rest of us made him a valuable ally to the students who passed through the Institute unsure of how to navigate our disparate personalities. A recently naturalized citizen, Alejandro, was a passionate and enthusiastic observer and participant in democracy and the political process. A believer in civic duty and responsibility, he served on Staff Council and was a regular volunteer at the Richardson Public Library.

Over the years, he worked on so many of our projects, sometimes taking on publicly facing roles, but often working behind the scenes on the critical work not often observed from the outside. Still, it is less his work that will be missed than his presence and spirit.

Words cannot capture or adequately communicate the sorrow that we feel, and the distance of this remote work only amplifies his absence.

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## Access to Virtual Fitness Classes

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UT Dallas is offering two virtual ways to get moving. The first, [VFit UTD](#) is led by a team of UTD staff members who are also exercise enthusiasts/instructors. Students, staff and faculty are invited to join the livestream events Monday through Friday on Microsoft Teams.

Recreation Movement is the second option. Students, faculty, staff and alumni are able to participate in online workout classes from 40 different colleges and universities across the country. Digital fitness and recreation are great ways for people to connect, engage and stay healthy. [Register to gain access.](#)

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## Items of Note

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### Recently Retired Employees

#### March 2020

D. Helen Hendricks  
Russell A. Hulse

#### April 2020

Tobias D. Cruz  
Larry L. Harmon  
Charles R. Lippincott

#### May 2020

Milton A. Cohen  
Deborah R. Davis  
Gloria Jean Eby



Forney Withers Fleming  
Billy Gene Gammons  
Dennis Charles Mccuiston  
Elizabeth Ryan Young

### **McDermott Library Offers Online Resources**

Although the library is closed until further notice to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus), the Eugene McDermott Library continues to offer students and faculty **services and support for learning and teaching remotely.**

### **Comets Giving Day**

Comets Giving Day has been postponed until Aug. 5-6. Check the **website** for additional details.

### **Employee Assistance Program**

If you are an employee of UT Dallas seeking counseling help for yourself or a family member, you are eligible for the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Free and confidential services are available to assist you and your family with issues affecting home and/or work. For more information, visit the **EAP website** or call 866-327-2400.

### **MDLIVE**

Online access to qualified health professionals is just a click away. Get care when and where you need it 24/7/365. Offered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas in partnership with MDLIVE, virtual visits by a licensed medical provider are available for non-emergency medical issues, behavioral health and psychological health needs. Free visits (no copay) are available on your computer, tablet or smartphone. View **more information on MDLIVE.**

### **UT Dallas Social Media Directory**

UT Dallas maintains a list of known and active social media accounts. **See the list.**

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## **Did You Know?**

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### **Make a Suggestion**

Submit the form on our **suggestions page** to make your opinion count.

### **Find Your Rep**

Discover who represents your district on the **Staff Council representative page.**

### **Tell Us Your News**

Please **tell us your news** by filling out our staff update form.



The next Staff Council meeting will be at 9 a.m., Wednesday, July 8, and it will be online.

To attend the meeting, check the [Staff Council homepage](#) for meeting connection information. All are welcome to join the meeting.

800 W Campbell Road | Richardson, TX 75080 | [staffcouncil@utdallas.edu](mailto:staffcouncil@utdallas.edu)