

The Sun

UT Dallas Staff Council Newsletter



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On the Cover:

UT Dallas dining employees Elysha Johnson, Steven Goodwin, Carrie Chutes and Gene Christiano sported chef hats during the Founders Day celebration in October.



Officers:

Naomi Emmett | *President*

Melissa Wyder | *Vice President*

Paula Austell | *Past President*

Jamie Abrams | *Secretary*

Lynn Butler | *Chairperson, Staff Development Committee*

Paul Bottoni | *Chairperson, Communications Committee*

Debbie Greszler | *Chairperson, Benefits Committee*

David Richardson | *Chairperson, Fundraising Committee*

Contact Us:

utdallas.edu/staffcouncil
staffcouncil@utdallas.edu

 [UTDStaffCouncil](#)

Mission Statement:

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 UT Dallas.

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 all UT Dallas employees.

The Staff Council is constituted to address matters of general concern to the University community and, in particular, to members of the staff and is not intended to supplant existing procedures for addressing individual grievances.

Staff Council meets at 9 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in JSOM 1.517.



Staff, faculty and students took part in a sunrise yoga session at Chess Plaza on the summer solstice in June.

Friendly Reminder of Employee Resources

There are plenty of benefits that come along with working at UT Dallas, some of which are more well known than others. So, the Staff Council communications committee teamed up to share a few that — in our opinion — may not be highly-publicized or that we forget to utilize:

Employee Resource Groups help connect those with similar life experiences — such as race, sexual orientation, interests and other minority populations — to give support and community. It is also a way employees can become a stronger voice for creating change and connection within the University.

The current groups at UTD are: QuTD, Military and Veteran ERG, Black Faculty and Staff Resource Group, UTDallas Young Professionals, Latino Faculty and Staff Association, UT Dallas Women ERG and Universal Access ERG.

To form an ERG go to utdallas.edu/diversity/ERGs

The Employee Assistance Program is a free service the University provides for employees to access free

short-term counseling in the community, attorney consultations, money management advising and search for community resources such as dog sitting or services for the elderly.

The EAP makes available a limited number of counseling sessions. This special benefit may be used by you and eligible members of your family. This benefit provides a set number of counseling sessions per person per problem issue.

For more information, email eap@utsouthwestern.edu or visit www.utdallas.edu/hr/download/Employee_Assistance_Program.pdf.

The SPN Wellness Center has times that are dedicated to faculty and staff workouts.

The facility features free weights, circuit training machines and cardio machines, as well as space for stretching and taking exercise classes. This is a free service to faculty and staff.

Classes include strength and conditioning tutorials, zumba and yoga.

Faculty and staff hours are 5:30-7:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 5-8 p.m., Monday-Friday.

The SPN Wellness Center is a members-only facility. A Comet Card is required for access.

Contact EmployeeWellness@utdallas.edu to be granted access. Please don't give access to non-members, including children.

Visit www.utdallas.edu/wellness/fitness for more information.

The Galerstein Gender Center provides in-house services to staff, faculty and the community, including space for study, events and meetings.

The GGC offers individual short-term counseling as a unique support service available to faculty, staff and students on gender-related issues, such as justice and equity, relationships, balancing work and family, race and culture, workplace and classroom conflict mediation, harassment, discrimination, sexual assault, and sexual identity and orientation.

Initial appointments can be made by phone (972-883-6555), by email gendercenter@utdallas.edu or in person at the Galerstein Gender Center, SSB 4.300.

Lebanese Red Lentil Soup



Ingredients:

Olive oil
2 cloves of garlic
1 half of a large yellow onion
Vegetable Stock
Water
Sweet potato
Baby carrots
Kosher salt (or any coarse salt)
Turmeric
Black pepper
Garlic powder
Cumin
Smoked paprika
Basil (fresh or dried)
Lemon juice (optional)



By Stevie Evans
Academic Advisor
School of Interdisciplinary Studies

Step One:

In a large pot, add about 2 teaspoons of olive oil on medium heat. You may use water or veggie stock in the place of oil. Mince 2 cloves of garlic and dice one half of a large yellow onion. Add to the pot and sauté until caramelized.

Step Two:

Add 1 cup of red lentils to the pot.

Step Three:

Immediately add 2 ½ cups of vegetable stock and 2 cups of water. Bring to boil, stir and let simmer on reduced heat, slightly covered for 10 minutes.

Step Four:

Next, take a small sweet potato and dice into small cubes. Also slice 10 to 12 baby carrots into small rounds. After the soup has simmered for 10 minutes, add the veggies to the pot.

Note:

I do not measure seasonings, but use what I think would be an adequate amount — anyone may adjust to their tastes. I add kosher salt, turmeric, black pepper, garlic powder, smoked paprika and cumin. I stir and continue cooking until the sweet potatoes and carrots are tender.

Step Five:

Finally, I add in 3 pinches of dried or fresh basil and the juice of half a lemon. Turn off the heat and enjoy! Serve with warm pita bread.

Artists discuss their work with attendees during the opening reception for the “Critical Mass” exhibition at the new visual arts complex.



New Art Gallery Space Opens in SPN2

The University unveiled a new 6,000-square-foot visual arts gallery complex this fall with a show that celebrated the works of noted alumni artists.

“Critical Mass,” which ran through mid-November, highlighted 45 artists with visual arts degrees from UTD.

“It is my hope that the retro-

spective exhibition and the new gallery will call attention not only to the success of the visual arts during the past 20 years, but also — and more importantly — to the benefits that a vibrant and varied cultural environment bring to the University,” said Dr. Dennis Kratz, dean of the School of Arts and Humanities.

The gallery is on the northwest corner of campus in the Synergy Park North 2 building.

The complex consists of two conjoined exhibition spaces dedicated to both student and professional creative research, including two project rooms, a reception area, an office and a preparation space.

Calling All Comet Cooks!

Staff Council is developing a cookbook that will feature ... *drum roll* ... YOUR recipes!

Email paul.bottoni@utdallas.edu for a chance to be included.

ISO Promotes Security Awareness With Event

By Renee Stone
District 2 Representative

The UT Dallas Information Security Office held its annual Security Awareness event in October.

Guest speaker Dr. Jesper Johansson, author and security expert with Google, discussed “Building a Security Practice.” Johansson focused on emerging risks, securing the cloud, achieving proper network hygiene and influencing organization culture.

Afterward, the ISO staff held a mini-expo along with the UTD Police Department, the Registrar’s Office, the UTD Tech Store, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) and a representative from ID Experts.

Among the topics discussed were:

- Social media tips such as using a strong passphrase rather than a short password, using a different password for each website and setting up security answers (which do not always have to be true answers).
- Using a password vault like LastPass to increase the security and convenience of using different passwords by syncing across browsers and devices.
- Mobile device protection by enabling a password, passcode, PIN, fingerprint and/or facial recognition to prevent



Dr. Jesper Johansson of Google (left) and Nate Howe of UTD.

others from logging in; data backups; using features such as “Locate My Device” and “Wipe My Device” in the event of loss or theft; and utilizing features that wipe the device after several failed attempts to unlock it.

- How to recognize phishing scams and avoid malware.
- CometSpace, available to everyone with a UTD NetID, for backing up or storing files.

Also at the event, David Spigelmyer, senior public safety officer with UTD-DPD, spoke to students about physical security measures as well as scams that target international students. Representatives from OIT provided

information about campus technologies and the ID Experts representative spoke to students about protecting identity information and restoring it.

Jennifer McDowell, UT Dallas registrar, spoke to students about FERPA and how it affects the privacy of their education records.

Staff from the UT Dallas Tech Store provided information on services they offer to students as well as staff and faculty.

For more information on the services and awareness training, you may contact ISO by visiting: <https://www.utdallas.edu/infosecurity> or <https://www.facebook.com/UTDInfoSec>.

Holiday Sale Wrapping Up

To those who’ve placed an order: Thank you!

To those who haven’t: There’s still time!

Cactus plants and bears are available on marketplace until Dec. 15.

Visit giving.utdallas.edu/staffcouncilholiday to place an order.



Support



Wash at Legends!

USE CODE

2018



628 Coit Road, Plano, TX – OPEN DAILY 8 - 9



Research Office Hosts Halloween Open House

By Amanda Hodges
District 1 Representative

In October, the Office of Research opened its doors once again for its annual Halloween open house.

It was a spirited event that truly embraced the '70s theme and Halloween whimsy.

A spread of sweet and savory treats was offered to all visitors. It was a welcomed exchange allowing coworkers new and familiar to meet and converse.

This year's pumpkin carving contest featured entries from four teams.

Visitors were encouraged to

cast a vote for their favorite entry. Given the '70s theme, VW buses were popular — three of the four teams submitted their variation on the iconic symbol.

This year's winner was a *Rocky Horror Picture Show* rendition of a VW pumpkin complete with decorative and edible artwork (pictured at top).

UT System Regents Outstanding Employee Award

In 2016, the UT System Board of Regents established [an award for exceptional employees](#).

Thirty awards are given out each year across the 14 UT System institutions plus the UT System Administration.

Winners receive a Chancellor's challenge coin, a certificate, a \$10,000 award and an invitation for the awardee and a guest to a luncheon in Austin.

[The deadline for submission is Jan. 31.](#)



Alumni Center Opens in the Heart of Campus

On Sept. 7, the campus community celebrated the opening of the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center, the new 30,246-square-foot facility in the heart of campus aimed at building bonds between students and graduates.

The facility, which is located north of the Naveen Jindal School of Management between the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building and Parking Structure 1, is also equipped with meeting and conference rooms, a rentable event space that can accommodate 800, and programmable outdoor areas including a patio, private garden and shaded grove.

Visit davidson-gundy.utdallas.edu for more information on the center.



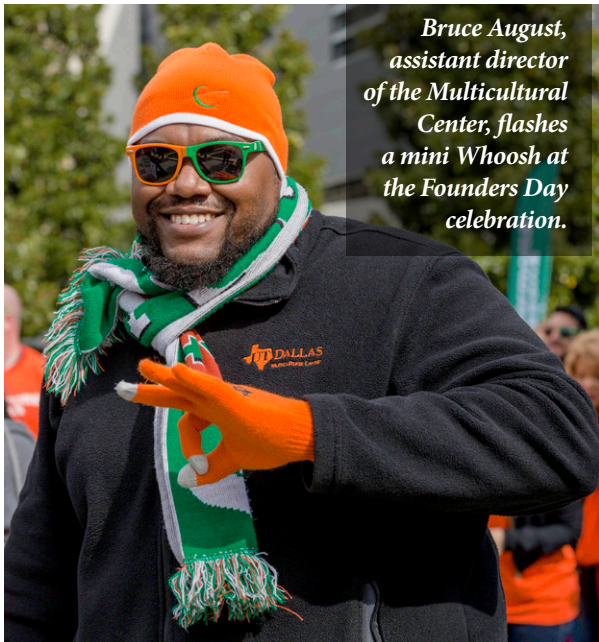
In Case You Missed It...



Staff, faculty and students formed the UTD monogram for a drone photo on Founders Day.



Diana Aguirre, director of development for the Center for Vital Longevity, shows off her Temoc socks.



Bruce August, assistant director of the Multicultural Center, flashes a mini Whoosh at the Founders Day celebration.



Residential life coordinator Bill Lacava and his family took part in the nighttime Homecoming 5K.



The inaugural Comet Fest was held at Northside in October. Attendees were able to taste a variety of chilis and try offerings from UTD alumni-owned breweries. Bottom left, Bryan Patton of the winning Hyatt Regency team gives a serving of chili to UTD safety manager Mark Pace.



Welcome, new UT Dallas employees!

Melissa Abbott
 Jin-Ho Ahn
 Sky Alexander
 George Apecechea
 Stacey Appiah-Opoku
 Tayler Atkins
 Jarren Bealer
 Ali Behroozfar
 Janette Bell
 Chad Boden
 Robert Booth
 Riya Bose
 Magdalyn Bradford
 Kimberley Brondeel
 Alonzo Brooks
 Christina Brown
 Shyra Burrell
 Marlene Campos
 Melissa Carley
 Clinton Carter
 Kristen Cash
 Yun-Ju Chen

Communications
 Material Science & Engineering
 ECS Student Services
 International Center
 Student Counseling
 Student Volunteerism
 Athletics
 Mechanical Engineering
 Human Resources
 Computer Science
 Facilities Management
 Physics
 OIT
 Medical Devices
 Enrollment Services
 Management
 Callier Center Communication
 Environmental Health & Safety
 Internal Audit
 Communications
 Enrollment Services
 Space Sciences

William Clarkson
 Kathryn Cobern
 Karimar Cruz
 Andre de la Cruz
 Shoniste Dennard
 Avanti Dey
 Keith Dickinson
 Kori Farley
 Elijah Farmer
 Rashida Francis
 Charlie Frye
 Claudia Fuentes
 Gerardo Garibaldi
 Madeleine George
 Glazer, Toby
 Jessica Gould
 Brittanie Gray
 Delisa Gross
 Michael Guzman
 Najira Harris
 Gregory Hearn
 Matthew Heflin

Auxiliary Services
 ECS
 Callier Ctr Communication
 International Center
 Housing Operations
 Center for Vital Longevity
 Management
 ECS Student Services
 Residential Life
 Research
 Facilities Management
 Housing Operations
 Material Science Engineering
 Behavioral and Brain Sciences
 Mechanical Engineering
 Center for Brain Health
 Center for Brain Health
 Management
 Biological Sciences
 University Police
 Career Center
 Center for Brain Health

Herbert Hernandez	Material Science & Engineering	Anthony Scott	Housing Operations
Kimberly High	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Juan Sepulveda	Print Shop
Paul Hill	Center for Vital Longevity	Cynthia Serrano	Electrical and Computer Engineering
Madeline Hoff	University Library	Natis Shafiq	Materials Science Engineering
Ariel Huang	Management	Gaurav Shekhar	Management
Fariha Hussain	Development & Alumni Relations	Suzanne Shoda	Interdisciplinary Studies
Sujit Jahagirdar	Human Resources	Sunil Shrestha	Center for Vital Longevity
Jer'Maine Jones, Jr.	ATEC	Tyne Sims	ECS Student Services
Jennifer Juric	Development and Alumni Relations	Brittany Smith	Computer Science
Matthew Kelly	Procurement - Operating	LaQuinta Smith	ECS Student Services
Jamie Kernohan	Management	Steven Smith	Residential Life
Brandon King	Auxiliary Services	Vicki Smith	Management
Leslie Kirk	Enrollment Management	Muhammad Sohail	Human Resources
Courtney Koenig	Financial Management Services	Dario Solis	Mechanical Engineering
Joshua Kreuter	Honors College	Ashley Soria	Center for Vital Longevity
Casey Lightford	Residential Life	Dominique Spikes	Student Union
Benjamin Lima	Arts & Humanities	Daniel Steele	Development & Alumni Relations
Sam Lockhart	Administration	Thang Ta	Research
Sara Loving	Callier Center	Amir Taghavi Nasrabadi	Materials Science Engineering
Matthew Lowery	Athletics	Diana Tavares Ferreira	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Alison Luckey	Medical Devices	Jeff Taylor	Management
Loretta Manning	Career Center	Adam Teed	Center for Brain Health
Carolyn Martin	Development & Alumni Relations	Kimberly Tixi	Biological Sciences
Victor Martinez	Research	Daniela Todea	Management
Lori Matthews	Procurement - Operating	Corey Troxell	Development & Alumni Relations
Darian McBrayer	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Viridiana Velazquez	Callier Center
Wendy McDonald	Research	Pamela Villarreal	Management
Kristin McGee	ATEC	Brenda Villasana	Center for Brain Health
Adrian Mendoza	Undergraduate Education	Matthew Walters	Athletics
Cody Meyers	Development & Alumni Relations	Ashley Wilson	Center for Brain Health
Abhishek Mukherjee	Management	Caitlin Wright	Housing Operations
Anupama Nair	Center for Vital Longevity	Sarah Wright	Management
Charisse Nartey	Biological Sciences	Katarzyna Yakel	Human Resources
Victor Perez	Facilities Management	Huifei Zhai	Natural Sciences and Math
Lynne Perler	OIT - SysOps		
Jenny Philp	Callier Center		
Colin Nelson Pinkston	Management		
Marcus Pinon	Callier Center		
Indira Placide	Research		
Scott Pomelow	Facilities Management		
Eva Pospisil	Medical Devices		
Kevin Powell, Jr.	Housing Operations		
Kimberly Powers	Electrical and Computer Engineering		
Valerie Price	Biological Sciences		
Timothy Prince	Receiving/Mail		
Supathi Puri	Living Learning		
Alexis Ramirez	Callier Center Communication		
Alma Ramirez	Management		
Nina Ray	Human Resources		
Deniece Reedy	Housing Operations		
Jimmy Reedy	Housing Operations		
Faisal Reza	OIT		
Nikitha Rogers	Callier Center		
James "Jim" Rossman	Callier Center		
Luis Ruiz	Facilities Management		
Tina Safai	Accounting and Financial Reporting		
Sofia Salgado	Housing Operations		
William Schewee	Management		
Jacqueline Schmitz	Management		