

# The SUN Newsletter

Staff Council Newsletter

2016

<http://www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil/suggestions.php>

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# Introducing Dr. Richard Benson



By Dee Lambert

## Interview with Dr. Benson

The UT Dallas Staff Council is thrilled to welcome Dr. Richard Benson to UT Dallas as he prepares to usher in a new era of leadership within the University of Texas at Dallas beginning July 15, 2016. Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Benson was kind enough to share some of his thoughts with the Staff Council Communication Committee as he prepares to take the reins at UT Dallas.

**Staff Council:** When you first learned the role of UT Dallas president was becoming available, what attracted you to the University and made you want to seek to fill the position?

**Dr. Benson:** I was attracted to UT Dallas for several reasons. I like UTD's distinctive history, including the university's close ties to the high-tech companies of the Metroplex. I *greatly* admire David Daniel and the extraordinary growth achieved during his time as president. I have read the UTD strategic plan, circa 2013, and believe that it presents an excellent blueprint for the future. I particularly note the state support for emerging research universities, and I want to be certain that UTD is successful in securing that support while solidifying its position as a Tier 1 research university.

**Staff Council:** How do you think your past leadership experiences have prepared you to lead UT Dallas as university president?

**Dr. Benson:** I have been fortunate to have had a series of leadership roles with increasing responsibility at three great universities: Rochester, Penn State and Virginia Tech. I'd like to think that I left every organization stronger than when I started. My time as the dean of engineering at Virginia Tech probably has the most bearing on the work that I hope to do at UT Dallas. Over the last eleven years, VT Engineering has seen a more than doubling in its research portfolio, and a more than doubling in the applications for freshman admission. We secured funds for three major buildings on campus, and an equal number at the nearby Corporate Research Center. We've moved from number 13 to number 8 in the size of our research portfolio as measured by the National Science Foundation. Like any university administrator, I get energized by the task of making an organization stronger, and there is no university better poised for growth and advancement than UT Dallas.

**Staff Council:** What are some things you are looking forward to doing and experiencing when you arrive to campus this summer?

**Dr. Benson:** I am eager to become a Texan; I am eager to become a Comet! I want to listen to some great live music and visit a Tex-Mex restaurant or two. I want to watch a mind-blowing chess match. I want to see if big city living is as good as I remember from my youth. I grew up near New York City and my wife, Leslie, grew up near Los Angeles. (Don't hold that against us; we will become fervent Texans!) All joking aside, I will make myself the best possible advocate for UT Dallas. I will spend a lot of my first year, and beyond, meeting with the corporate and government leaders of the Metroplex. I will be a knowledgeable and responsive ally of the UT System leadership and the Board of Regents. Most importantly, I will make myself a good friend and colleague of the UT Dallas faculty, staff and students. I will say "yes" to as many invitations as time will permit to meet with university groups. I also like getting out of my office, so I look forward to many micro-chats with colleagues on my frequent walks across campus.

Dr. Benson also indicated his plans to continue maintaining open communication with the UT Dallas community through periodic "Coffee with the President" events, so stay tuned to future Staff Council SUN newsletters and our Facebook pages for updates on how you can meet and learn from Dr. Benson in the near future.



# Spring CARE Awards

By Dominic G. Kollasch

## At UT Dallas, We CARE!

We Celebrate Achievement and Reward Excellence (CARE)! The CARE Award was established by the Staff Council to honor outstanding staff who have demonstrated superior performance, offered outstanding customer service, and performed acts which have enhanced the image of the University.

On Wednesday, May 4, 2016, President *ad interim* Dr. Hobson Wildenthal presented the CARE Award to six extraordinary UT Dallas staff members. Each honoree was introduced by her or his supervisor, who in turn apprised the attendees of the truly remarkable reasons each honoree was being recognized. Please congratulate these fine exemplars as you see them around campus and thank them for their invaluable contributions to our UT Dallas community. Staff members may be nominated for the CARE Award by faculty, staff, students, visitors, customers, etc. by completing the Nomination Form. You may fill out the form, print it, and submit it to Staff Council at Mail Station AD40 or via email. The nomination deadline for spring is March 31 and the fall deadline is October 31. Here is more about your Spring 2016 CARE Award recipients.



*From left to right: University President ad interim Dr. Wildenthal, Staff Council President Naomi Emmett, and honorees Bruce August, Kevin Masten, Tim Harrison, Nithya Ramachandran, Hayley Berk, and Melissa Wyder.*



*Left: Bruce August (left) is the Assistant Director of the Multicultural Center and was honored by Dr. Wildenthal and his supervisor Dr. George Fair, Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies.*



*Above: Melissa Wyder is an Administrative Assistant II for Science/Math Education and was honored by Dr. Wildenthal and her supervisor Dr. Mary Urquhart, Associate Professor of Science/Math Education.*



# Spring CARE Awards



*Left: Hayley Berk (center) is a Training Specialist in the Office of the Vice President of Budget and Finance and was honored by Dr. Wildenthal and her supervisor Orkun Toros, Director of Finance Operations.*

*Right: Tim Harrison (center) is a Software Systems Specialist IV in Network and Telecom Services and was honored by Dr. Wildenthal and his supervisor Brian Dourty, Associate Vice President and Chief Tech Officer of the Office of Information Technology.*



*Left: Kevin Masten (left) is the Assistant Director of Research Facility Operations in Facilities Management and was honored by Dr. Wildenthal and his supervisor Kelly Kinnard, Director of Physical Plant Services.*

*Right: Nighya Ramachandran (left) is the Business Manager in the Material Science Engineering department and was honored by Dr. Wildenthal and her supervisor Professor Julia W. P. Hsu.*





# Holocaust Remembrance

By Cindy Seton-Rogers

The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies hosted an event in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day on May 5, 2016<sup>th</sup> where Holocaust poems were recited in more than a dozen languages. Among the readers were President *ad interim* Hobson Wildenthal, A&H Dean Dennis Kratz, members of the community and UT Dallas faculty, staff, and students. While many of these poems were read in the languages in which they were originally written, the iconic poem, “Death Fugue” was read in ten languages from translations that resulted from a translation workshop the Ackerman Center held last month.



Dr. Ozsvath (and participants) with the *Death Fugue: An Uncovering* installation.

In addition, Dr. Frank Dufour and LabSynthe unveiled two interactive art installations: *Death Fugue: An Uncovering* and *Death Fugue: A Collaborative Making of Digital Poetry*. More information about both of these unique installations can be found on the Ackerman Center website, [utdallas.edu/ackerman](http://utdallas.edu/ackerman).

This event was held in the open in the atrium in the The Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building and passersby became drawn into the audience.



# Zooming with *Zagster and Zipcar*

By Emily Lacy

If you need to get from one side of campus to the other or feel like getting some exercise, Zagster may be just what you're looking for. UTD has officially partnered with Zagster to offer bike sharing. All faculty, students and staff at least 18 years of age and that have a valid UTDallas email address can rent a bike for \$1/hour, after paying a \$15 annual membership fee. The bikes all feature adjustable seat height, front and rear lights, a basket to hold your belongings, 7 gears of shifting, fenders and a chain guard. There are no restrictions to where you can go on your bike, just be sure and lock it if you take a break.

There are 5 Zagster locations on campus – by the west doors of Green Hall, northwest corner of JSOM, basketball courts near Residence Hall North, the Center for Students in Recovery near Phase 1 Apartments, and Floyd Rd on the walkway between parking lots A and B. To rent a bike, first, download the Zagster app and enter the bike's number. You'll receive a code to open the lockbox, unlock the U-lock, and then head off on your adventure. When you've completed your ride, you'll drop off the bike at one of the locations on campus, close the lockbox and End Ride in the app. It's as easy as that!

For a limited time, Use promo code **COMETS15** to receive \$15 worth of rides for free.

<http://zagster.com/UTDallas/>



If you need to go farther distances or need to get out of the Texas heat, UTD also offers a car sharing club – Zipcar! As with Zagster, Zipcar is membership based with base plans as low as \$7/month. After becoming a member, you will receive a Zipcard, which allows you to rent a wide variety of cars by the hour or day. The rental fee includes miles, gas, roadside assistance and even insurance. Reserved parking spots are available at several locations:

- South side of Lot T
- Intersection of Drive A & Drive H
- University Village, northeast corner of Phase 9
- University Village, southwest corner of Phase 8
- University Village southwest corner of Phase 2
- Intersection of Dickerson St. & McCallum Blvd.

<http://www.zipcar.com/universities/university-of-texas-dallas>





# University Mourns Loss of Library Communications Manager, Alumna

By Deborah Buckner

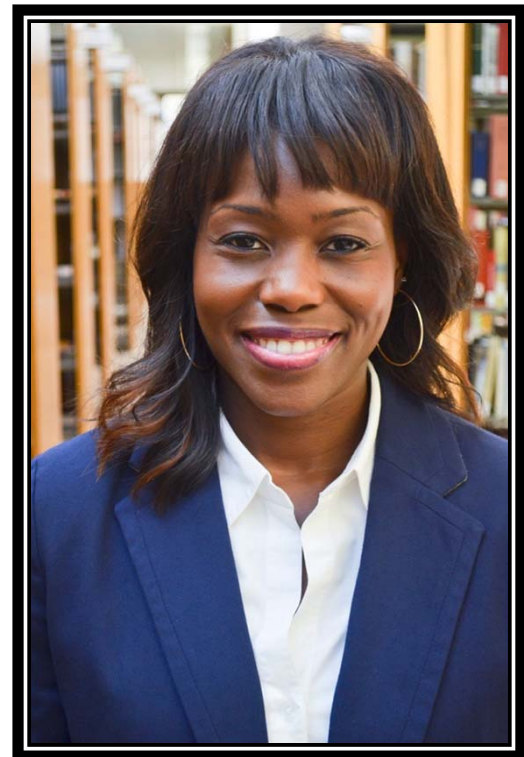
The UT Dallas [Eugene McDermott Library](#) and colleagues across campus are mourning the loss of the library's communication manager, Misty Hawley, who died April 30, 2016 of natural causes. She was 39.

Misty was responsible for the Paws for Finals event, and she chaired the McDermott Student Advisory Group, which provides student input to library operations.

Prior to coordinating the library's communications needs, Misty served as assistant director of student media from 2010-2013, working with students at [Radio UTD](#) and [UTD TV](#).

Staff members are organizing a scholarship in memory of Hawley. [The Misty Hawley MA'13 Memorial Scholarship](#) will support students majoring in emerging media and communication at UT Dallas. A memorial service was held May 11<sup>th</sup> in her honor.

Please see full article on Misty Hawley MA'13 at [UT Dallas News Center](#)



Misty Hawley MA'13



# Welcome New Employees!

Acheampong, Joana	Callier Center
Aguirre, Diana	Development & Alumni Relations
Aldrich, Larry	University Police
Anderson, Jerchel	Center for Vital Longevity
Bhatti, Christopher	Development and Alumni Relations
Bivens, Mary	Callier Center
Blackmon, Jamar	Mathematical Sciences
Bridges, Britni	Office of IT
Brown, Brianna	ECS Industrial Practice Program
Chen, Jia	Mathematics
Clark, Rachel	University Library
Colby, Melinda	Office of IT
Convery, Mark	Undergraduate Education
Cowen, Shelly	New Student Programs
Cui, Mingjian	Mechanical Engineering
Evans, Dorian	Research
Faghihahmadabadi, Shawheen	Center for Brain Health
Fincik, Keeley	Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Foulds, Casey	Office of IT
Freeman, Brenda	ECS Student Services
Galganov, Alyssa	Research
Galloway, Linda	Student Programs
Giauque, Geoffrey	Development & Alumni Relations
Goines, Daniel	Management
Granstaff, Julissa	Research
Grinn, Sarah	Callier Center
Hardin, Treashure	Center for Brain Health
Hassan, Mawia	Bioengineering
Hawker, Steven	Records & Registration
Herron, Aimee	Center for Brain Health
Hodges, Amanda	Mechanical Engineering
Huang, Jun	Computer Science
James, Aubrey	University Library
Larkin, Susan	Center for Brain Health
LaRocca, Lauren	EODIAH
Linnell, Devin	University Police
Maeng, Jimin	Bioengineering
Mathison, Leah	Bionengineering
McCoy, Myia	Medical Devices
Milbauer, Doug	Development and Alumni Relations
Miller, Ashton	Center for Brain Health





# Welcome New Employees!

Murillo, Julian	Management
Needham, Bradley	University Police
Onyeka, Ogechi (Cynthia)	Center for Brain Health
Owuor, Letty	Center for Brain Health
Park, Mihye	Materials Science
Patrick, Jana	Callier Center
Pearson, Robert	NSM Deans Office
Pena, Daisy	Enrollment Services
Porter, Amy	Medical Devices
Pourmatin, Mohammad	Mechanical Engineering
Qualls, Michael	Research
Rahebi, Kim	Biomedical Device Center
Ramos, Christopher	University Police
Redwine, Megan	Communications
Rice, Zachary	University Police
Richmond, Ashley	Center for Brain Health
Rothenberger, Robert	University Police
Sandvig, Trisha	Facilities Management
Schuurman, Tim	Center for Vital Longevity
Sinele, Quincy	Management
So, Alan	IT Systems and Operations
Speaks, Callie	Procurement
Sutton, Staci	Student Health Center
Trammell, James	Learning Technologies
Treece, Gregory	Management
Turner, Joey	Receiving Mail
Vernon, Stacy	Center for Brain Health
Villanueva, Pascual	Receiving/Mail
Wakefield, Erin	Records & Registration
Webb, Ched	Center for Brain Health
Werb, Billy	Residential Life
Wilson, Timothy	University Library
Yang, Jianzhi	Mechanical Engineering
Yun, Soyeon	Enrollment Services



# Wildflower Event

University of Texas - Dallas  
Student/Employee Login Code  
UTD16  
Online Discounted Tickets \$15.00  
Gate Price \$25.00



Member Login Purchase Link:

<https://tix.extremetix.com/Online/?siteID=1722&EventID=65722&MemberID=>

## FRIDAY MAY 20 .....

Survivor • The Guess Who • Finger Eleven • ASIA featuring John Payne • Hoobastank • Unwritten Law • Le Freak • Unforgettable Fire - A Tribute to U2 • Gretchen Peters • Rebecca Folsom

## SATURDAY MAY 21 .....

Peter Frampton • Dennis DeYoung and the Music of Styx • John Waite Toadies • Soul Asylum • Alien Ant Farm • A Hard Night's Day • Unforgettable Fire-A Tribute to U2 • Slaid Cleaves • Terri Hendrix w/Lloyd Maines • Ellis Paul • Crystal Yates

## SUNDAY MAY 22 .....

Jimmie Vaughan and the Tilt-A-Whirl Band • John Mayall • Black Joe Lewis • Unforgettable Fire-A Tribute to U2 • Eliza Gilkyson Billy Crockett • Songwriters Contest Winner's Song Swap • "Tribute Band Sunday!" • Budding Talent Vocal Competition



#WAMFest2016

WILDFLOWERFESTIVAL.COM



# Did You Know...?

## Did You Know?

- ☞ Faculty and Staff \$30 Meal Deal goes on sale May 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ☞ The Visitor's Center conducts campus tours every week day at 10AM and 2PM (Great for new staff!)
- ☞ \$5 Spirit Friday's are going to continue through summer
- ☞ About the Comet Cruiser Dart Bus 883 East and West  
<http://www.utdallas.edu/services/transit/cruiser/>
- ☞ Online Benefits Enrollment for New Hires coming soon
- ☞ Employee Assistance Program (EAP) employees and family help at no cost  
[http://www.utdallas.edu/hr/download/Employee\\_Assistance\\_Program.pdf](http://www.utdallas.edu/hr/download/Employee_Assistance_Program.pdf)
- ☞ Comet Discount Program  
<http://www.utdallas.edu/hr/benefits/discount/>
- ☞ The University of Texas at Dallas is ranked #15 in the nation and #1 in Texas in regards to having the highest number of international students.