

The Sun

UT Dallas Staff Council Newsletter





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Melissa Wyder | *Vice President*

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Contact Us:

utdallas.edu/staffcouncil
staffcouncil@utdallas.edu

 UTDStaffCouncil

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

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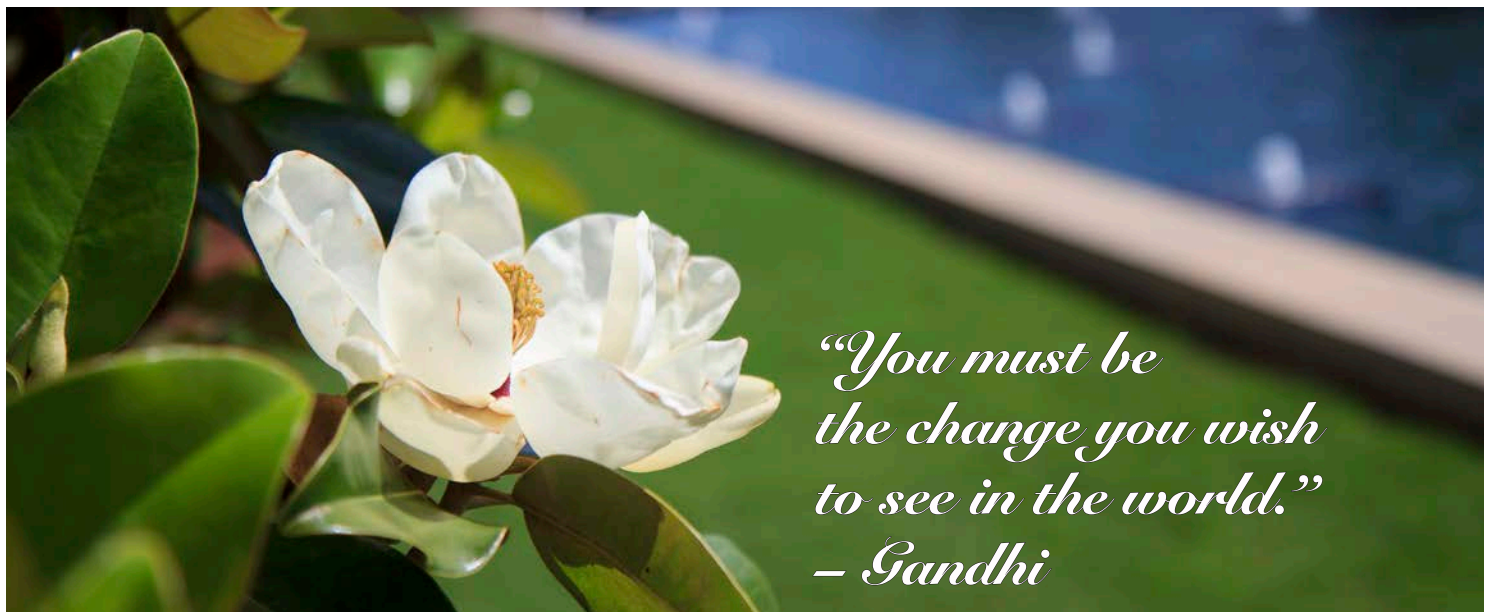
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*“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”
– Gandhi*

Dr. Benson provides update on UT Dallas

By Shelly Turner

The auditorium was filled with staff, faculty and students anxious to hear the State of the University address from our new president, Dr. Richard C. Benson.

Dr. Tim Redman, speaker of the Faculty Senate, who reported that the Senate focused on addressing the one card procedures and time absence reporting to make it more user friendly. They are working more on addressing issues of tenure and non-tenured faculty.

Melissa Wyder, vice president of the Staff Council, reported on the previous year's CARE award recipients as well as the scholarships awarded by the council to UTD staff members.

Akshitha Padigela, president of Student Government (SG), then spoke about the achievements and future focus of the SG. She stated they achieved getting hammocks for rent on campus to encourage students to relax and engage in self-care. The focus this year is to increase school



Melissa Wyder, vice president of Staff Council, address the audience at State of the University.



Dr. Richard C. Benson delivers an update on UTD.

spirit and pride. They are starting with Homecoming traditions and increased participation in events like the parade.

Dr. Benson then reviewed the year. He described characteristics of the University student and faculty population. The number of underclassman has increased, representing the majority of the students on campus. Current enrollment is now about 27,000 students and is projected to grow to 31,000 by 2020.

A goal was set to increase PhD student enrollment and to achieve more than 200 PhD graduates. Emphasizing that we are a strong STEM school, Benson said he will increase focus on the arts to be a STEAM school.

Dr. Benson discussed the breakdown of the faculty population to student population, and how he would like to see a more diverse staff and faculty to match the diversity of our

students. He said he realized this is challenging, but is committed to addressing the issue. He then acknowledged the numerous staff, faculty and student achievements, awards, research grants or other accomplishments that occurred throughout the year. He also reviewed the growth over the last few years of the campus and the growth that continues.

Dr. Benson reviewed the objectives of achieving Tier One status started by Dr. David Daniel. He stated that we have completed four of the six criteria which need to be held for two years in order to achieve Tier One status.

He also announced that this will be accomplished by the end of fiscal year 2016. He ended by announcing all nonessential staff will be given the day off on December 21 in honor of our achievements and labeled it "Tier One Day."



Dr. Richard C. Benson, fifth president of UT Dallas, addresses the audience during the inauguration ceremony.

Dr. Benson Inaugurated as UTD President

Editor's Note: Dr. Richard C. Benson was inaugurated as the fifth president of The University of Texas at Dallas on Oct. 27. He delivered the following speech during the ceremony.

Chancellor Bill McRaven, Regent Ernest Aliseda, Regent Brenda Pejovich, Regent Sara Martinez Tucker, esteemed colleagues from UT Dallas and the UT System and distinguished guests, thank you. Thank you, Mary McDermott Cook, president of the Eugene McDermott Foundation; Chuck Davidson MS'80, Distinguished Alumnus award recipient and Development Board member; and Akshitha Padigela, Student Government president, for your kind words of welcome and heartfelt thanks to my wife, Leslie, and sons Kenny and Jimmy,

who are here today, and Stephanie, my daughter who is watching the webcast. Thank you all for sharing this special day with me. I am deeply honored to stand before you as the fifth president of The University of Texas at Dallas.

As I embark on this extraordinary journey, I am moved by the tremendous opportunity to build on the vision that was established by the Texas Instruments founders of the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest. Were they with us today, I am certain that Eugene McDermott, Cecil Green and Erik Jonsson would be delighted by what this still young university has achieved in 47 years as part of The University of Texas System. It is no small privilege to act upon their vision and follow in the footsteps of our first four presidents: Bryce Jordan, Rob-

ert Rutford, Franklyn Jenifer and David Daniel. And thank you, President Rutford, for being here today. Each of these leaders drove an ambitious agenda for advancement, and collectively they saw this University grow to a modern and beautiful campus.

I must tip my hat to the man who has served as our chief academic officer for nearly half of the life of UTD — Executive Vice President and Provost Hobson Wildenthal; and maybe I could ask you to join me in another round of applause for our president ad interim.

You may be sure that I will do everything in my power to be a worthy successor to presidents Jordan, Rutford, Jenifer and Daniel, a worthy partner to Provost Wildenthal and a worthy partner to you all.

At this point, I hope you will permit a bit of reflection on my own path to this wonderful University. My father was a mechanical engineer and my mother was a grade school teacher, and I suppose it only stood to reason that I would grow up to be an engineering educator. Somehow that algorithm broke down with my two younger brothers, one who became a lawyer and the other an entomologist.

My most recent stop was at Virginia Tech, where I was privileged to serve as the dean of engineering. I know that in the minds of many, my training as an engineer comes with certain built in perceptions:

- “Engineers are data-driven problem-solvers.” I like to think that is true for me.
- “We lack an appreciation for all things artistic and beautiful.” I like to think that is not true for me.
- “Engineers are socially clumsy.” Mmmm, maybe.

When The University of Texas Board of Regents appointed me to lead this University in February, someone on social media posted this question: “How will he foster relations with the arts and humanities when all of his background is STEM? A Tier One University should focus on all facets it offers and not just one.” And to that I say, you bet! I could not agree more with the writer’s call for breadth, and we’ll talk about that more later. But I also hope to pleasantly dispel the assumption about the perceived narrowness of my life’s experiences and influences. And by the way, we’re being live streamed, so I hope that the person who asked the question sees this.

It is true as a boy in New Jersey I irritated my mother by scattering Erector Set pieces all over the house. My early fascination with the papers on my father’s desk full of Greek letters and mysterious mathematical symbols and

intriguing Buck Rogers-style drawings inspired me to pursue an education in engineering. That curiosity took me to Princeton, Virginia and UC Berkeley for my education and later to Xerox, Rochester and Penn State and Virginia Tech for my career and now to The University of Texas at Dallas.

As a boy, I developed a love for music. I was a teenager better known for carrying a trumpet than a slide rule. My formative years at Princeton were shaped by time in the lab. I even joined the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in order to do a summer stock production of “West Side Story.” Today I enjoy all forms of music — from classical to classic rock, bluegrass to the blues. And I married well. My wife, Leslie, is a fine string bass player.

Another love is photography. You can’t live and work in Rochester, New York, which rightly calls itself the imaging capital of the world, and not get the bug. I also love hiking. You can’t live in the lush Appalachian Mountains and not respond to the allure. Today I enjoy blending both hobbies of hiking and photography, and I have been on the hunt since July to find the best place in North Texas to walk and take pictures. So if any of you have some advice, I’d like to get it.

Enough about me. I tell these stories to illustrate how perceptions don’t always paint the whole picture of a person or for that matter a university. Perhaps you’ve heard UT Dallas is merely a night school churning out engineers and MBAs. It looks like an industrial park with its brutalist architecture, offers little to the artistically inclined or the lovers of the arts. It lacks culture and cool. If I may quote from one of my favorite Bix Beiderbecke tunes, “Tain’t so.”

We are still giving shape to this superb University, defining purpose and

creating traditions that will last for 100 years and more. Put simply, you are founders. And it is the greatest honor of my career to have been invited onto this team.

Here’s the truth about what’s really happening here. We work and study on a wonderfully landscaped and inviting campus. Let me add my thanks to Margaret McDermott for this most beautiful of all gifts to our University. Thank you so much, Mrs. McDermott. Thousands more students walk down the center mall at noon time than the dinner hour. On and near campus we have a great array of housing and dining options that make this a welcoming environment for all of those out-of-classroom experiences, the ones that lead to lifelong friendships.

We have a campus-wide focus on innovation and entrepreneurship that encourages new ventures and products. We have an interdisciplinary approach, from academics to the design

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Naomi Emmett, president of Staff Council, presented the Chain of Office during the inauguration of Dr. Richard C. Benson.

UTD Celebrates 3rd Annual Founders Day

By Dominic G. Kollasch

It was an absolutely gorgeous autumn day! On Friday, October 28, 2016, the campus was arrayed in its most splendid treasures: its people. They crowded the mall from Chess Plaza north, milling amid the smiles and booths. Technology demonstrations, food, gifts, entertainment, and Temoc all combined to encourage the warmth of sun and camaraderie. All in all, a fitting tribute to the beloved founders of The University of Texas at Dallas (and Texas Instruments before that): Cecil H. Green, J. Erik Jonsson, and Eugene McDermott.

Certainly the graceful magnolias and fountains of that day bore sharp contrast to the lonely building that, some 52 years ago, boldly stood amid the

open fields of 1964. The Graduate Research Center of the Southwest became the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies in 1967 before being gifted to the state of Texas in 1969 for its next University of Texas System institution.

That once lone, prophetic structure is now the heart of the UT Dallas main campus as our own Founders Building. These fields once fertile for seasonal crops would soon yield bounty of another kind. The vision cultivated here across two score and a dozen years would grow to bring forth brilliant minds and love of learning, research and growth, great people and the sacred brain trust needed by a fast-changing world.

It was altogether a propos, then, that the past and the future should meet this October day. Long-time Texas

Instruments CEO Richard K. Templeton joined with the newly inaugurated and charismatic Richard C. Benson, fifth President of the now Tier One University of Texas at Dallas, to dedicate TI Plaza on the North Mall. This commemoration of the still flourishing relationship between TI and UT Dallas does, indeed, honor the great men who founded both enduring institutions. Posterity may now also recall with us this momentous occasion from the photo taken after the dedication, a remembrance of light reflecting the people that are the heart of this continuing legacy.

From cultivated earth to cultivated lives, as may have been said in 1964 may still be said of UT Dallas today: the founders and their successors are truly people outstanding in their fields.



Texas Instruments representatives joined the Founders Day celebration to help dedicate TI Plaza, which is located between the University Theatre and Founders Building. Margaret McDermott, longtime University supporter and wife of founder Eugene McDermott, also attended the ceremony.



Clockwise from top: Office of Research staff (from left) Conor Wakeman, Brian Scott, Emily Lacy, Rebecca Everett and Amanda Boone; the office's spiderweb wall of superhero staffers; the pumpkin carving contest entries; and E.T., the winner.

Research Office Opens Doors for Halloween Showcase

By Katie Terry

The Office of Research hosted their annual open house and really took advantage of the holiday.

Amongst the copious amounts of food were the evidence of the lighter side of the department. Assistant Director Emily Lacy mentioned that they really like to do the open house so everyone can see the faces behind the many various emails they send all year.

Each member was morphed into a superhero or character via Photoshop and put on display for all the visitors

to see. They offered up informational pamphlets, water tins, pens and more.

Along with pictures of their characters, the department split into teams to have their annual pumpkin carving contest. Between Sponsored Projects, Post Award, and IRB they split into four teams: Darth Vader, E.T., an Owl and a home for woodland creatures. As visitors came through, they placed their vote by putting a ticket in the cup corresponding to the pumpkin. This year's winner was E.T.

Keep an eye out for next year's open house to see what the Office of Research does next!

Researcher Spotlight: Dr. Michael Burton



Dr. Michael Burton, research associate in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Education: B.S. and Ph.D in Immunophysiology and Behavior. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Years at UTD: 1.5

Current Grants: National Institutes of Health Academic Career Award (K22)

Research Interests: The interface between the immune system, pain perception, and the development of chronic pain.

Where do you see your research going and how would you like to apply it?

Burton: The field is moving in the direction of understanding the interaction of the peripheral nervous system and immune system and I am poised to greatly contribute to this understanding.

Future career plans/ambitions?

Burton: Recently accepted a faculty position at UTD.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Burton: Cook new recipes and travel .

Anything else you would like to let us know about your research or yourself?

Burton: I love mentoring and am a part of the Undergraduate Success Scholars program here at UTD.

Comet pride in full force at annual parade

By Beverly Reed

Comet spirit was contagious and on display at the recent celebration of the 23rd annual University of Texas at Dallas Homecoming Parade.

There were 70 groups participating in the Homecoming Parade, which included the talented UT Dallas Power Dancers, spirited Cheerleaders and excited Pep Band along with the newly formed drum line.

The late-night float building was enjoyed by all. The winners were:

- The President's Trophy — Black Student Alliance (\$400)
- The Comet Cup — Friendship Association of Chinese Students & Scholars (\$300)
- Fraternity & Sorority Spirit Award — Kappa Alpha Theta (\$300)
- Spirit Cup — Student Media
- The Orange & Green Cup — Student Success Center

In keeping with the goal to make the Homecoming Parade bigger and better this year, the parade was expanded to include cars, trucks and trailers along with the traditional golf carts.

The parade also included a special appearance from the Richardson Fire Department No. 3 and the J.J. Pearce High School Pacesetters drill team.

Go Comets — Whoosh!



Top: Members of the Bursar Lab float shows their Comet spirit;

Above: Who ya gonna call? The Student Success float won the Orange & Green Cup.

Left: The new UT Dallas drum line made its debut at the 2016 Homecoming Parade.

Other entries...



SSB4.400



SPN2.740



SSB4.113



The Academic Bridge program took home the laurels for the 2016 Homecoming door decorating contest.

Campus displays Homecoming spirit with door decorations

By Dennis Guten

Out of a field of 27 decorated doors for the annual homecoming door contest the winner was Door #10. It's located in Karl Hoblitzelle Hall (HH 2.702) and is the office for the Academic Bridge Program.

The inspiration for the door came from the Academic bridge students that use this study lab.

They decided to go with an overall theme that supported what the bridge room signified to the students. An envi-

ronment that supports learning, creativity and school spirit.

The individuals that worked on the door include students and staff members of the Academic Bridge program, including Adriana Alva (Freshman), Llesenia Saldivar (Senior) and Alba Ramirez (senior). Staff members include Flor Lluace (student Development specialist) and Desta Seifu, (program Assistant Director).

Everyone brought a different idea that portrayed their school spirit and importance of the study room and came together to create "Temocs Study room."

Comet Cupboard provides essential items for students

By Shelly Turner

Comet Cupboard was established in 2012 to meet the needs of UTD students who often find themselves having to choose between buying books for class or food.

Developed by Hillary Campbell, Associate Director of Undergraduate Students, Comet Cupboard seeks to encourage student service. Amber Brown, a current graduate student, has been volunteering since its inception and is in charge of operations. Steady use of the cupboard indicates that students have become more aware of its presence.

The cupboard provides food as well as personal hygiene items. They receive regular donations through sponsored drives and department challenges and participation. Departments and organizations can become Shelf Stars and sponsor a month for food drives. For example, November's drive featured cereal and/ or peanut butter and jelly. It should be noted that many of our students do attend school year round meaning summer months are the most needed time for donations. The most needed items are listed on the website. Nonperishable, hygiene, and any items that have not passed their expiration date are welcome any time of year. In addition to toothpaste and soap, there are several other hygiene items that are needed for donation such as deodorant, razors, feminine hygiene products, laundry detergent.

While green beans and ramen are a popular donation, think of other vegetables, fruit, soups, rice etc. When thinking of purchasing items to donate they recommend the Dollar Store



Above: Established in 2012, the Comet Cupboard provides food and essentials to students in need.



Left: Graduate student Amber Brown has been volunteering since the Comet Cupboard's inception and is in charge of operations.

as an affordable option. There are a variety of convenient drop off boxes around campus. The student volunteers are also willing to pick up items from offices or donations can also be left at the cupboard.

The cupboard is currently supplied by the very generous staff and faculty of the UTD campus and resident hall kitchen donations, but would like to expand outreach opportunities to

the community. Ms. Campbell would like to see this become a student lead organization that allows students to experience leadership opportunities by interacting in the community to promote corporate participation or fundraising opportunities. Both Ms. Brown and Ms. Campbell have found this opportunity to be very rewarding and are excited to see the future of the cupboard.



Mud Masters: The faculty/staff team claimed the laurels against the winners of the 2016 Ooze-ball tournament. Pictured from left are Ray Khan, Toni Stephens, Teresa Johnston, Anne Cassin, David Yeh (a Student Ambassador fill-in) and Dan Long.

Fraternity council seeks to raise awareness

By Pam Stanley

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) hosted its annual “A Walk in Her Shoes” event this fall to support victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Christian de Lara, IFC vice president of member development, said he felt compelled to head this year’s event: “As fraternity men, we are constantly scrutinized for creating an environment that encourages misogyny and sexual assault. There is a perception that we only walk in boat shoes, not in women’s heels.

“A Walk in Her Shoes is an annual event to show that we as fraternity men do not condone sexual assault and domestic violence; we are making a stand and are putting ourselves in victims’ shoes by literally walking around campus in said shoes. This year was particularly impactful because of



Fraternity members participate in the annual “A Walk in Her Shoes” event.

the gracious CEO of Genesis Women’s Shelter, Jan Langbein, gave a speech while we also partnered with the na-

tional It’s On Us organization. As for the walk itself? We all came out of it with blistered toes and sore calves.”

Welcome new UT Dallas employees!

Acheampong, Joana	Callier Center Communication	Chin, Michelle	Honors College
Adams, Arthur	Facilities Management	Chitkara, Rajni	Financial Aid
Adcock, Katherine	Medical Devices	Choi, Junghoon	Electrical Engineering
Aguilar, Eduardo	Research	Cilurzo, Lorenzo	Mechanical Engineering
Aguilar, Gabriela	Management	Ciraci, Samantha	Student Organization Center
Aguirre, Yesenia	Student Health Center	Cleveland, Melanie	University Police
Ah Lee, Eun	Arts and Humanities	Coleman, Alphonse	Computer Science
Akcora, Cuneyt	Computer Science	Connolly, Elise	Multicultural Center
Alvarado, Pedro	University Library	Cornett, Cory	University Library
Anglin, Ronald	Facilities Management	Corrigan, Alison	CBH
Aston, Caroline	CBH BPI	Cortinas, Roberto	Facilities Management
Atwood, Kelley	Development & Alumni Relations	Cottongame, Jackie	University Police
Aziz, Jacqueline	Student Health Center	Cox, Steve	NS&M Deans Office
Ball, Lisa	Vital Longevity	Croasdale Woudwyk, Andrea	ECS Student Services
Balsamo, Anne	Arts Tech And Comm	Cure, Cassie	Honors College
Banh, Lily	Management	Davenport, Michael	University Police
Bass, Conway	Management	Davidson, Christian	CBH Vanneste
Bass, Matthew	Research	Davidson, Meghan	Callier Center Communication
Benfield, Rebecca	Enrollment Services	Davis, Breyanna	University Library
Benson, Richard	Office of the President	Davis, Kristan	Management
Bernardini, Matteo	Mechanical Engineering	Dedrick, Elizabeth	CBH Filbey
Berry, Abigail	Medical Devices	Del Rosario, Jennifer	Student Programs
Bhatti, Christopher	Development & Alumni Relations	DeLoney, Paulette	Records and Registration
Bishop, Rod	University Police	Derow, Christopher	Receiving and Mail
Bivens, Mary	Callier Center Communication	Deshmukh, Swati	Human Resources
Blackmon, Jamar	Mathematical Sciences	Doerwaldt, Christa	CBH BPI
Blair, Cole	Medical Devices	Edwards, Kimberly	Undergraduate Education
Blake, Mallaree	Student Counseling Center	Ely, Fernando	Material Science Engineering
Boat, Doris	CBH Chapman	Escobedo, Gilbert	OIT - Systems & Operations
Bodine, Evan	Student Counseling Center	Evans, Brian	OIT - Systems & Operations
Boring, Jesse	Facilities Management	Evans, Leonard	Arts & Technology
Bosovik, Olga	Research	Faghiih, Shawheen	CBH Rypma
Brantley, Sara	Behavioral And Brain Sciences	Fincik, Keeley	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Bridges, Britni	Office Information Technology	Findley, Aubrey	Undergraduate Education
Brown, Brianna	ECS Student Services	Fiorentino, Kimberly	Callier Center Communication
Brown, Joshua	ECS Student Services	Flores, Ana	Procurement Management
Brown, LeKasha	Callier Center Communication	Foster, Chris	Vital Longevity
Burleson, Billy	University Police	Foulds, Casey	OIT - EAS
Burton, Edward	ECS Student Services	Frazier, Allan	University Police
Bustamante, Evangelina	Mathematical Sciences	Fritsch, Thomas	Vital Longevity
Cantu, Nicholas	Research	Galloway, Linda	Student Programs
Carcamo, Kelyn	University Library	Garner, Ashley	Living Learning
Carrasco, Xochilt	Callier Center Communication	Gaydos, Scott	Research
Carter, Jasmine	Management	Gerson, Benjamin	Receiving and Mail
Catalano, Massimo	Material Science Engineering	Gideon, Cerise	Academic Affairs and Provost
Cedillo, Andrea	Student Success Center	Glaze, Christy	Communications
Chadwick, Deborah	Financial Mgmt Services	Gnisci, Jacopo	EOD Institute for Art History
Chambers, Bryan	Management	Goodman, Jarid	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Chan, Micaela	Vital Longevity	Goodwin, Dan	Student Union
Chapman, Kaitlin	Student Programs	Goss, Debra	Engineering & Computer Science
Chatterjee, Raja	Medical Devices	Granstaff, Julissa	Research
Chavez, Dixiana	Undergraduate Education	Griffin, Morgan	University Library
Chen, Zhe	Analog Center	Grinn, Sarah	Callier Center Communication
Chetty, Ansel	Office Information Technology	Hageman, Annmarie	Career Center

Hall, Mackenzie
 Hanhart, Shaina
 Harris, Danica
 Harrison, Heronn
 Hartman, Joseph
 Hawker, Steven
 Hawn, Tayler
 Hearty, Katherine
 Herron, Aimee
 Hibdon, Delilah
 Hinton, Justin
 Hinze, Whitney
 Ho, Jimmy
 Hopper, Kathryn
 Horlacher, Karyn
 House, Rayn
 Howell, Autumn
 Hu, Haiping
 Huang, Jun
 Hwang, Jeongwoon
 Ihle, Todd
 Jackson, Carion
 Jackson, Kevin
 Jacobsen, Nancy
 Jenson, Julie
 Jerome, Sol
 Jividen, Chelsea
 Johnson, Latisha
 Johnson, Madeline
 Johnson, Nona
 Johnson, Tyler
 Johnston, Carlin
 Jones, Ne'Shaun
 Jung, Hunmin
 Kanneganti, Aswini
 Kathiriya, Jatin
 Kent, Beth
 Khairalseed, Mawia
 Kim, Myungjong

Computer Science
 Records and Registration
 Student Counseling Center
 OIT - Systems & Operations
 EOD Institute for Art History
 Records and Registration
 Callier Center Communication
 Management
 CBH BPI
 ECS Student Services
 Learning Technologies
 Management
 Communications
 Communications
 Financial Mgmt Services
 Athletics
 Behavioral And Brain Sciences
 Physics
 Computer Science
 Material Science Engineering
 OIT - Systems & Operations
 University Library
 Behavioral And Brain Sciences
 Research
 Financial Aid
 Vital Longevity
 Callier Center Communication
 Budget
 Callier Center Communication
 Human Resources
 Bioengineering
 Activity Center
 Student Success Center
 Chemistry
 Bioengineering
 Office of Administration
 Management
 Bioengineering
 Bioengineering

Kim, Sijoon
 Kinnamon, David
 Korang, Melissa
 Kumar Thakur, Kishore
 Lane, Mara
 Larin, Noe
 Larkin, Susan
 LaRocca, Lauren
 Lazos, Alejandro
 Li, Sheng
 Li, Xu
 Linnell, Devin
 Liu, Chang
 Lopez, Evalisa
 Lopez, Michael
 Lowe, Morgan
 Lucero, Antonio
 Luo, Xiwang
 Luyo, Pamela
 MacDonald, Dale
 Mack, Dusty
 Maeng, Jimin
 Magdaleno, Jasmin
 Maity, Ashis
 Manandhar, Bikash
 Marcus, Richard
 Mardian, Andre
 Markham, Jimmie
 Marlowe, Natalie
 Martinez, Cariel
 Masch, Kristen
 Mata Ontiveros, Jesus
 Mathison, Leah
 McCoy, Harold
 McCoy, Myia
 Meedel, Jennifer
 Meiter, Marissa
 Mendiola, Sally
 Mendoza-Acevedo, Salvador
 Mendoza, Mayra
 Miller, Ashton
 Minnaar, Pauline
 Moffett, Megan
 Montoya, Martha
 Moolenijzer, Kay
 Morales, Pedro
 Muenks, Patrick
 Nesler, Christopher
 Newman, Andrew
 Nichols, David
 Noor, Mashal
 Norris, Tiffany
 Norwood, Isa
 Noyes, Eilidh
 Oltmann, Heather
 Ortega, Ivan
 Osorto, Sarai
 Owuor, Letty
 Pagliaccio, Peter

Material Science Engineering
 Medical Devices
 Callier Center Communication
 OIT - Systems & Operations
 Research
 Facilities Management
 CBH BPI
 EOD Institute for Art History
 Academic Affairs and Provost
 Physics
 Nanotech Institute
 University Police
 Computer Science
 Procurement Management
 Behavioral And Brain Sciences
 Enrollment Services
 Material Science Engineering
 Physics
 Callier Center Communication
 Arts Tech And Comm
 Engineering & Computer Science
 Bioengineering
 Research
 Analog Center
 Chemistry
 Mechanical Engineering
 University Police
 Management
 Athletics
 Facilities Management
 Facilities Management
 Engineering & Computer Science
 Bioengineering
 Facilities Management
 Medical Devices
 NS&M Deans Office
 OIT - Systems & Operations
 Arts Tech And Comm
 Material Science Engineering
 Callier Center Communication
 CBH Community Relations
 Career Center
 University Police
 Residential Life
 Vital Longevity
 Office Information Technology
 Honors College
 Bioengineering
 Research
 OIT - Systems & Operations
 McDermott Scholars
 University Library
 Enrollment Services
 Behavioral And Brain Sciences
 Arts Tech And Comm
 CBH Chapman
 Student Volunteerism
 CBH BPI
 Communications



Looking Back: Sally Nance (pictured) was the first editor of *The Mercury* student newspaper, the first issue of which hit newsstands in September 1980. Nance joined the Office of Publication at UT Dallas in the mid 1970s, during which she also earned her bachelor's degree.

Paris, Keenan	Office of Administration	Smith, Kameron	OIT - TCS
Park, Mihye	Material Science Engineering	Sohara, Heather	Records and Registration
Patel, Vandana	Development & Alumni Relations	Spain, Kristin	Management
Patrick, Jana	Callier Center Communication	Speaks, Callie	Procurement Management
Pearson, Robert	NS&M Deans Office	Spurgin, Lisa	Material Science Engineering
Pena, Daisy	Enrollment Services	Stewart, Sally	International Center
Phillips, Chad	Arts Tech And Comm	Stout, April	Procurement Management
Pickle, Nathaniel	Bioengineering	Stubblefield, Jasmin	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Piering, Jeremy	Receiving and Mail	Summerville, Josiah	Honors College
Pina, Benjamin	Receiving and Mail	Syeda, Fatema	Mechanical Engineering
Pineda, Asstrid	University Police	Tangumonkem, Elizabeth	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Pitney, Jack	Office Information Technology	Taruvai Kalyana Kumar, Rajeshwari	Medical Devices
Pitre, Sneha	Student Counseling Center	Thakkar, Jennifer	Development & Alumni Relations
Porter, Amy	Medical Devices	Thapa, Niraj	OIT - Systems & Operations
Pourmatin, Mohammad	Mechanical Engineering	Thomas, Wendy	Student Success Center
Powell, Briana	Procurement Management	Thompson, Garrett	Callier Center Communication
Powers, Elizabeth	Callier Center Communication	Townsend, Jamesha	Research
Prabhakar, Sarita	Bioengineering	Tran, Taylor	Office of Administration
Prabhakaran, Rajeswari	OIT - EAS	Turner, Joey	Receiving and Mail
Prabhu, Chaitra	OIT - EAS	Valladares, Cesar	Space Sciences
Pradhan, Grishma	Behavioral And Brain Sciences	Van Noy, Glen	OIT - TCS
Prince, Ashley	Management	Vela, Whitney	Undergraduate Education
Puttaparthi, Pavan	Executive Education	Villanueva, Pascual	Receiving and Mail
Quezada, Jasmine	Undergraduate Education	Von Hatten, Laura	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Radha Shanmugam, Nandhinee	Medical Devices	Vouitsis, Elpida	EOD Institute for Art History
Rahebi, Kim	Medical Devices	Wakefield, Erin	Records and Registration
Ramos, Genelly	Student Counseling Center	Wang, Luhua	Material Science Engineering
Reed, Allison	University Library	Warren, Victoria	Medical Devices
Reeder, Jonathan	Eugene McDermott Grad Fellows	Weglarz, Kristine	Executive Education
Reidy, Patrick	Callier Center Communication	Willoughby, Tiffany	Research
Rhodes, Andrew	Engineering & Computer Science	Wilson, Adrienne	Instl Equity Compliance
Rice, Zachary	University Police	Wilson, David	Arts Tech And Comm
Rios, Gustavo	Facilities Management	Wilson, Timothy	University Library
Robinson, Brigitte	Facilities Management	Worrel, Jordan	Athletics
Rodriguez Lopez, Ovidio	Material Science Engineering	Wright, Carmen	Facilities Management
Rodriguez, Ana	Development & Alumni Relations	Wu, Grace	Management
Rodriguez, Paul	Center for Brain Health	Xiong, Fangyuan	Bioengineering
Romero, Brenda	Office of Administration	Xue, Feng	Biological Sciences
Rudolph, Johanna	Callier Center Communication	Yan, Chao	Accounting & Financial Rept
Russo, Amanda	CBH BPI	Yang, Jianzhi	Mechanical Engineering
Sabochick, Anna	University Library	Young, D'Andrea	Multicultural Center
Sadat, Sayed	University Police	Young, Leanne	CBH BPI
Safai, Alan	Learning Technologies	Yun, Soyeon	Enrollment Management
Sah, Parinita	Research	Zheng, Liheng	Space Sciences
Satyagari, Karthiek	OIT - EAS	Ziraldo, Riccardo	Bioengineering
Schaedel, Megan	Dean of Students		
Schier, Marie	Engineering & Computer Science		
Schuurman, Timothy	Vital Longevity		
Scott, William	Student Counseling Center		
Scroggins, Nancy	Engineering & Computer Science		
Scryba, Jeremy	OIT - Systems & Operations		
Seock Ma, Jin	Material Science Engineering		
Shahabuddin, Hiba	Student Success Center		
Sharma, Navneet	Analog Center		
Shaw, Courtney	Environmental Health & Safety		
Sherwood, Joshua	Student Health Center		
Sisk, Michael	OIT - EAS		
Slater, Darrian	Residential Life		
Slater, Sophie	Vital Longevity		

Meet your Staff Council representatives



Dr. Thomas Allen
District 6

Since May 2016, Dr. Allen has served as the University Archivist, documenting, arranging, and preserving the University's history. Prior to that he has served as a Curator of Special Collections with the material in the Special Collections and Archives Division of the Eugene McDermott Library. Dr. Allen has a PhD in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas. In his free time he writes, watches movies, and designs and playtests board games.



Caryn Berardi
District 3

Caryn Berardi joined UT Dallas in 2011 and is currently the Associate Director of the Davidson Management Honors Program in the Jindal School of Management. Caryn has served on Staff Council for the past three years. As a Staff Council member, she has addressed staff concerns through her involvement on the Benefits Committee and volunteered at various events across campus to recognize staff. While a Dallas native, Caryn decided to experience Chicago winters while receiving a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Northwestern University. She later earned a Masters of Education in Counseling from the University of North Texas. When not working, Caryn can usually be found chasing after her twin boys.



Cheryl Berry
District 5

Cheryl is the Graduate Program Administrator for the Political Science Program in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. She has worked at UT Dallas since January 2010. Cheryl has many duties that make up her position, including helping oversee admissions into the MA & Ph.D Political Science program, Political Science Ph.D graduate student registration, Graduate Applications, and coordinating dissertations and proposals.



Paul Bottoni
District 6

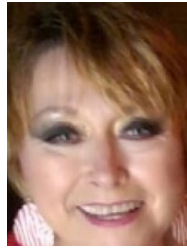
Paul works with the periodicals team in the Office of Communications, helping with *UT Dallas Magazine*, the *UT Dallas Annual Report*, *The President's Viewpoint* and social media.

He began working at UT Dallas in August 2014 after spending two years at a small East Texas newspaper. He received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of North Texas in 2012.



Debbie Buckner
District 4

Deborah Buckner works in the International Center as an Administrative Services Officer. Debbie has been with UT Dallas since 2008 and was a student at UT Dallas before that. She has seen the university achieve tremendous growth during these years and Debbie has seen firsthand how this growth has made UT Dallas a better place for staff and students alike.



Lynn Butler
District 6

Lynn began her UT Dallas journey 27 years ago with the McDermott Library. After a brief year at UT Austin, Lynn returned to UTD working a few different departments before settling into her current roll in the Student Success Center working with students. Lynn was one of the first founding members of the Staff Council when it began in 1999 and has served on Staff Council for the past 5+ years. She believes the Staff Council has helped bridge a partnership between the staff, faculty and students. Lynn has been recognized by many awards, such as the Staff Council CARE Award, and serves on several Campus Committees other than Staff Council.



Ste've'sha Evans
District 1

Ste've'sha Evans is an Academic Advisor in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. She was born and raised in Dallas TX, and obtained a BA in English at the University of North Texas. Ste've'sha joined Staff Council in fall of 2015 to become more involved with the UT Dallas community, and to get the 411 about what was happening on campus! She is currently serving her second year as a representative on the Benefits committee. A fun fact: She is a huge fan of the *Song of Ice and Fire* series and will geek out if anyone mentions it.



Jan Gebhard
District 2

Jan has been at UTD for almost seven years. Her first position was as a Research Assistant in the Synapse study at the Center for Vital Longevity. When the study ended, Jan began working the front desk in Procurement and later moved to an Accounts Payable position. For the past two years, Jan has been in Auxiliary Services. Jan's ties with UT Dallas began in 2005 when her eldest son decided to pursue his B.S. in Computer Science. Her son has since graduated with both his B.S. degree in 2010 as well as a Master's degree in Computer Science in 2011. Jan's other son is a current student in the ATEC program.



Yu (Selina) Gu
District 1

Yue (Selina) Gu is a proud member of the ECS Dean's office. She has had the pleasure of working in the Procurement office as eProcurement Help Desk staff member, UTD PeopleSoft Academy Coordinator and Technology Administrator before moving to her current role. She loves to travel, watch movies, and collect stamps during spare time.

Selina received her Master of Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Finance from the University of Texas at Dallas. She has been an active Staff Council representative since 2012. Selina really enjoys the extra responsibilities and is looking forward to continuing to serve the staff.



Dennis Guten
District 3

Dennis Guten has been at UT Dallas since December, 2008. He was a Web Specialist for Web Services until 2015 when he took a position as a Web Developer for the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. Dennis is married to Ruthie and has three grown boys, just downsized and is now an empty nester and very happy about it. In his spare-time he likes to go biking, swimming, lead a healthy lifestyle, absorb everything tech and social media and to tend to a small patio garden.



Andrew Helgeson
District 4

Andy was born and raised in Dallas, and received his Bachelors in Fine Arts in Print-making with a minor in Marketing at UNT. He is continuously drawing in his sketchbook or doodling on scrap paper. He enjoys purchasing and collecting artwork with his wife, specifically paintings or sculptures. Andy also enjoys drawing with his 3 year old daughter Daphnie. Andy has been with UTD for 13 years, 5 with Media Services and 8 with the Student Union. Andy is known to most as the bald guy with the long beard at the SU.



Kelly Kaar
District 1

Prior to joining UT Dallas, Kelly worked on Capitol Hill in Washington DC. Kelly has been with UT Dallas at the Teacher Development Center since February 2014. She appreciates the close knit staff and enjoys the process of ensuring UTD develops and prepares highly qualified teachers. Kelly truly loves her job! Kelly believes it to be an honor and a privilege to be serving her second term on Staff Council. Kelly and her husband, Jason, have 3 adult children and will become first time grandparents in December! They are overjoyed to become grandparents to twins, a boy and a girl!



Dominic Kollasch
District 6

Dominic began his time with the University of Texas at Dallas and The Eugene McDermott Scholars Program in January of 2015, ten years after he first visited and fell in love with the McDermott Program as a high school counselor. When he started at UT Dallas, Dominic brought 14 years of counseling experience, seven of which were as the Counseling Department Chair at St. Pius X High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dominic earned a B.Mus. from Oklahoma City University and a M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute in Carpinteria, California. Point of contact for: first year McDermott Scholars, cohort trips, Leadership Dallas, counselor inquiries



Bill Lacava
District 4

Bill began working for the UT Dallas Comet family in March 2014 in the Housing and Residential Life Department. He is currently the Residential Life Coordinator for West Hall which houses around 600 students that are involved in our Living Learning Community. Bill received a Masters Degree in College Student affairs from Nova Southeastern University located in Florida and a Bachelors in Biological Science from Oklahoma State University. Some fun facts about Bill include taking a tour of the Indominus Rex compound from Jurassic World, he was in a TV commercial when he was younger, and is an avid gamer, Anime watcher, and Manga reader.



Angela Marin
District 5

Marin came to UT Dallas after serving as the Associate Athletic Director at the University of New Orleans for six years. While at UNO, Marin was involved in several transitional periods for the Privateers post Hurricane Katrina. In her role as Associate AD, Marin prepared individual sport budgets in addition to handling all aspects of team travel, issuing and maintaining competition contracts, serving as the department's liaison to university human resources and assisting with the compliance initiatives. Marin serves as assistant athletic director and senior woman administrator for the UT Dallas athletics department. A native of The Colony, Marin earned her bachelor's degree from Texas A&M in Sociology in 2006.



James McAllister
District 1

James was born & raised in Dallas, TX. He studied History at The University of Oklahoma, and Library Science at The University of North Texas. James is enjoyed time as an Eagle Scout and in his free time he loves to go hiking.



Lizbeth Munoz
District 6

Lizbeth Muñoz, a native Fort Worthian, is the cataloging librarian for the McDermott Library's Special Collections department and helps describe our unique, rare, and historically-important resources so that others can find, access, and enjoy them! She obtained her BA from UT Arlington, and her MS from University of North Texas. She is also the mother to a happy little boy, caretaker of a mischievous beagle pup, and an amateur Radiohead fan.



Anh Pho
District 5

Anh graduated from TWU with her bachelors degree, her major was in biology with a minor in chemistry. Anh is currently serving as a Safety Specialist for EH&S.. Anh is currently pursuing classes in Graphic Design and Photography and enjoys being a Staff Council member. Anh raised two boys as a single mother. Her boys, now 37 and 32 and are very good to her. Anh loves to spend time with her children and now her grandchildren as they are the most important people in her life. Anh also loves to cook and bake for family and friends, as well as garden and spend time in nature.



Alice Presti
District 3

Alice is the program coordinator for the graduate programs in the School of Arts & Humanities. She graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Ecology. Alice began working for UTD in January of 2012, and her interests include reading, cycling, cooking, and travelling with her husband. Alice continues to be involved in charity work with the Dallas Women's Foundation.

Alice thoroughly enjoys serving on Staff Council and believes she has benefited so much from all the work that Staff Council does.



Beverly Reed
District 3

As an Administrative Assistant, Beverly Reed, supports the Director and Associate Director in the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Beverly received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and has over 25 years administrative experience.



Maria (Pinky) Reyes
District 3

Maria A. Reyes is better known to most as Pinky. Originally from the Philippines, she has a Bachelors in Science in Mathematics. Pinky will be receiving her 5-year Service Award this year. She works in the School of Management under the Graduate Programs, where she assists in special projects and assessments. Pinky enjoys volunteering and helping others. She was an active volunteer in the PTA and Booster clubs of her two sons schools when they were younger and is still currently active in both church and community organizations. She is currently serving on the Staff Council so she can be involved and help make a difference. Pinky is a planner and has much to offer the University.



Julie Rooney
District 6

Julie has been at UT Dallas since September 2008 and has served on Staff Council for three years. Julie previously worked in Student Affairs and the Library and currently serves as Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Public Affairs. Her office handles all the state and local government and community relations for the university.

Julie volunteers her time with UTD's Office of Student Volunteerism and just began taking classes this fall at UTD working on her personal goal of finishing her degree. Julie is married and has two grown children who both graduated from college this past May. Outside of work, she enjoys gardening, cooking, canning, swimming and playing with her border collie mix Sophie.



Janie Shipman
District 4

Janie has been at UT Dallas as a Career Counselor for almost 14 years, and has seen the University grow from less than 9,000 students to a dynamic campus triple that size! After many changes and several different occupations along her own career path, Janie feels that she is a “walking, talking commercial” for the value of career counseling. Janie says she really loves the “aha!” moments that both students and alums experience as they explore their career possibilities and find their direction. She loves to write, to talk, and has a passion for empowering people to design and manage their own careers!



Rebeka Stafford
District 6

Rebeka began working at UTD in Mechanical Engineering in 2013. First as a Secretary and later as an Administrative Assistant, she enjoyed contributing to a dynamic department. In 2016 she joined the growing Central Business Office as a Finance Operations Coordinator. Rebeka has attended the Catch Comet Pride, Emotional Intelligence, and Manager-Supervisor Certificate Series. In addition to Staff Council, she enjoys participating in student centered activities on campus and is proud to be a Safe Zone Ally.



Chad Thomas
District 4

As UT Dallas’ director of student media since 2010, Chad Thomas has advised the University’s student media groups including *The Mercury*, Radio UTD, UTD TV and AMP. Thomas joined the University Staff Council in 2012 and since has chaired the Communications and Benefits committees. He is co-chair of the University Safety and Security Council and is the University’s alternate representative to the UT System Employee Advisory Council. Thomas is currently pursuing a doctorate in public affairs at UT Dallas. He lives in Plano with his wife, Erin Roth Thomas, who is a mezzo-soprano soloist for several professional choral groups in Dallas.



Shelly Turner
District 5

Shelly is a Counseling Referral Coordinator here at UT Dallas. She enjoys cooking, reading and gardening. She spends a lot of time with friends and their babies. Her guilty pleasure is reading serial killer novels and more recently games on her Kindle.



Melissa Wyder
District 2

Melissa is the current Vice President, and a seven year representative of the UTD Staff Council. She began her journey with UTD in 2009 and currently holds a position in SME, her favorite department on campus.

Among her many titles are Alumni, wife, and mother of two. Melissa has won many awards such as the Shooting Star Award, and is a member of several campus societies including Comet Whoosh Society. Melissa is passionate about discovering the things that make each industry unique, numbers, encouraging others, volunteering and learning how to make custom boots.

She is also VP of her family business, Standardized Controls, Inc. SCI is a 22 year old small engineering firm.



of new buildings. We have an art institute housed in a cutting-edge Arts and Technology building. Thank you, Peter and Edith O'Donnell for that gift. We have a superb faculty teaching students enrolled in more than 135 degree programs. We have an outstanding staff every bit the equal of our talented faculty and students that are passionately devoted to UTD.

UT Dallas is different by design. The differences are our defining characteristic. We are the school where the "rock stars" do things like make animated films, build robots, and play chess. We're the school where students regularly win at the national level in debate, engineering design and competition for business ideas. And UTD is the proud home to fine student-athletes, more than a few of whom have achieved Academic All-American status.

For those reasons and many more than I can list here, students are choosing UTD in ever-increasing numbers. Consider this from Jennifer Steward, a graduate of the Class of 2015:

"It was nice to be valued for my brain instead of my appearance for the first time in my life, where I wouldn't be ostracized for being intelligent. Nor was I alone. For once, I was among peers. There are no words for how good it was to feel normal, and I found it to be plenty social.

Social around ideas and research, which will quantifiably make this world a better place. That suited me perfectly."

Evidently, UT Dallas is suiting more and more people in this area and across the country as well as abroad — we have posted 9 percent annual enrollment gains for the better part of a decade. The students' SAT and ACT

scores are among the highest in the state, and we have over 100 national merit scholars in the entering class. Which brings me to the most basic question: Where do we go next?

For starters, we will throw one terrific golden anniversary party in 2019 when we celebrate our 50th year as The University of Texas at Dallas. In anticipation, I've asked Provost Wildenthal to lead the effort to document our first half-century in one readable compendium. Not to put any pressure on Dr. Wildenthal, but the story of UTD's remarkable ascension is worthy of scholarly study.

We also will spend some time looking beyond our 50th year. We will prepare a new strategic plan. Our last update from 2013 is starting to grow a little dated. Interestingly enough, in 2013, we tended to underestimate our eventual achievements. Like any good strategic plan, ours will be broad-based with input from faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members. We will complete it by the end of the spring 2017 semester.

I don't want to get ahead of you on what will be our collective vision and strategy, but I do have some thoughts and predictions of my own. I offer these thoughts as president, but also as one who still possesses a bit of an outsider's perspective and objectivity.

Perhaps the most significant element of our next strategic plan is that it will be the first one written as a Tier One university, rather than as an aspiring Tier One university. For those in the audience who may be visiting our campus for the first time, the drive for Tier One status was President Daniel's brilliantly conceived and executed plan to bring UT Dallas to the highest echelon of research and educational excellence.

He succeeded. You succeeded. Whether measured by our recent ele-

vation to the Highest Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification, the soon-to-be acquired eligibility for the National Research University Fund, or the great demand for our graduates, UT Dallas is an impactful university. Of course, Tier One status is a moving target, so we will not let up in our efforts to grow as scholars and educators. We will benchmark against the best Carnegie R1 public universities and will act with the confidence that comes with a proven record of rapid advancement.

Some elements of our strategic plan will be very familiar and time-tested. Most notably, we will continue to act upon the dream of our three Texas Instruments founders. Let me say their names again. Eugene McDermott, Cecil Green and Erik Jonsson. As an aside, we will be dedicating the Texas Instruments Plaza tomorrow on the North Mall to honor these visionaries and the continuing partnership that we have with this leading technology company. The goal of the founders was to create the MIT of the Southwest. It is a great concept, but it cannot be the whole of our vision. We need to continue to refine the distinctive identity of The University of Texas at Dallas. We will borrow good ideas, of course. I'm a best practices kind of guy. Like MIT and the other great technical institutes, we will be committed to cutting-edge research in science, technology, engineering and math. In other words, the STEM disciplines.

We will take full advantage of being a part of the extraordinary University of Texas System. Like our sister academic campuses, we will offer the citizens of Texas and the world a first rate education in a wide range of disciplines. Working with our sister medical schools, we will conduct research in fields that impact human health and well being. Our classes will



Dr. Richard C. Benson holds up the Chain of Office following his inauguration in October as fifth president of The University of Texas at Dallas.

be filled with bright, hardworking students. Our teachers will be as bright and hardworking as our students. Our outstanding staff will help make that vision of our future a reality.

And we will welcome a diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints at UT Dallas and treat one another with respect. Our student body will grow more reflective of the diversity of Texas, and our faculty and staff will grow more reflective of the diversity of our student body. We will enroll students from across the United States and the world. We will grow in global awareness from our exposure to culturally rich places.

We will equally prepare the young man from Germany to take a job in Plano as we will prepare the young woman in Plano to take a job in Germany. Borrowing from trailblazing institutions like Virginia Tech and Penn State, we will position ourselves on the uncom-

fortable leading edge of pedagogical technology. We will be early adopters of new forms of communications that enhance the teaching and learning experience and that allow us to reach many new and nontraditional students.

Like our entrepreneurial friends in Silicon Valley, Austin, and Boston, we will be part-and-parcel of the dynamic growth of our region. Here in Richardson, Texas, we are in an enviable position to work collaboratively with our neighbors to make the Metroplex an ever-popular destination for inventors, artists, innovators and risk-takers.

We will keep our alumni close to UT Dallas. It has often been noted that we do not have a football team. Here's something else we don't have, an old guard. Our first freshmen walked this campus a mere 26 years ago. What we have is a relatively young and passionate alumni body, some who have seen UTD through the whole of its evolution. With new venues like the Davidson Gundy Alumni Center, we will keep our Comet families connected to this evolving impactful university. Thank you, Chuck and Nancy Davidson, for that.

We will put an A into STEM and make UT Dallas a STEAM University. In our midst are numerous students who take joy from music, art, dance and theater. Others have a passion for history, aesthetics and great literature. Maybe they are pursuing majors in the School of Arts and Humanities, or the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication, but it is more likely they are pursuing majors in the Naveen Jindal School of Management, the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, or the School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Regardless of their majors, our students are not one-dimensional, and we will create new venues for the broadly talented men and women who will choose UT Dallas because of an opportunity to gain an in-demand degree, all the while having an opportunity to give expression to the creativity.

One of my favorite Big-Band leaders, Glenn Miller, once said, "A band ought to have a sound all on its own and have a personality." Thanks to President Jordan, a musicologist by the way, and presidents Rutherford, Jenifer and Daniel, UT Dallas most definitely has a sound all of its own, and we will continue to build upon that distinctive personality.

For my final observation, I would like to turn again to the founders, but this time I'm not just referring to McDermott, Green and Jonsson. As I look back on my own education, I reflect that I received my bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from universities that were established in 1746, 1819 and 1868, respectively. All great universities and all well-defined by the time I walked their campuses. It is safe to say each was little changed when I stopped walking their campuses.

UT Dallas is different, however. Very different. As a university, we are younger than many of the faculty and staff members who work here. We're even younger than some of our students. Our oldest is 84. What this means is that the founding of UT Dallas was not just one brilliant act of creation in the 1960s, and nor is it complete. We are still giving shape to this superb university, defining purpose and creating traditions that will last for 100 years and more. Put simply, you are founders. And it is the greatest honor of my career to have been invited onto this team. So together we will direct the comet-like arc of our success. And so my fellow UT Dallas founders, let's have at it! Let's have some fun! *Whoosh!*