

The Sun

UT Dallas Staff Council Newsletter



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On the Cover:

Landscape coordinator Craig Lewis shared information about UT Dallas' composting program during the annual Earth Fair, one of the highlights of Earth Week.



Officers:

Naomi Emmett | *President*

Melissa Wyder | *Vice President*

Paula Austell | *Past President*

Jamie Abrams | *Secretary*

Lynn Butler | *Chairperson, Staff Development Committee*

Jazzmyn Wilson | *Chairperson, Fundraising Committee*

Katie Terry | *Chairperson, Communications Committee*

Chad Thomas | *Chairperson, Benefits Committee*

Contact Us:

utdallas.edu/staffcouncil
staffcouncil@utdallas.edu

 [UTDStaffCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/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 the University.

The Staff Council is constituted by the President under the discretion and authority invested in the President by the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System, with the goal of continually improving University operations and the well-being of all UT Dallas employees.

The Staff Council is constituted to address matters of general concern to the UT Dallas community and, in particular, to members of the UT Dallas 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.



2016-17 CARE Award winners honored

The Staff Council bestows six CARE Awards (Celebrate Achievement, Reward Excellence) each fall and spring to exemplary staff members who have been nominated by their supervisors.

Pictured above are the Fall 2016 CARE Awards (from left): Sharon Piana, Naveen Jindal School of Management; Kristi Shewmaker, Office of

Development and Alumni Relations; Daname Lucas, Office of Undergraduate Education; Beth Keithly, Office of Graduate Studies; Tonya Griffin, Department of Materials Science and Engineering; and Ed Bennett, Office of Information Technology.

Pictured below are the Spring 2017 winners with UT Dallas President Richard Benson (from left): Volya

Helm, Callier Center for Communication Disorders; Frances Branham, Recreational Sports; Benson; Ashley Willess, Department of Materials Science and Engineering; Matt Johns, Galerstein Women's Center; and Catherine Ranta, Department of Mechanical Engineering. Not pictured is Raul Hinojosa, Office of Diversity and Community Engagement.



Art contest winner announced

Ashley Willess is a degree plan evaluator in the Materials Science and Engineering Department in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science. She manages all academic administrative services for Materials Science PhD and Master's track graduate students from their first to last semesters of enrollment. Ashley is an alumna of UTD. She earned a bachelor's degree in arts and technology with a minor in visual arts in 2011. She has worked in the Materials Science department for nearly eight years; she began her employment as a student worker in 2009 and was hired full-time in 2012.

Ashley Willess, winner of the Staff Council art contest, with her prize — a Bluetooth speaker.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS
STAFF COUNCIL



Dee Lambert



Leonard Griffin Jr.



Samantha Preisser



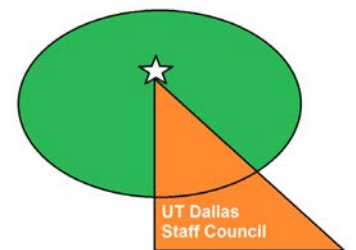
Brandon B. Brown



Anthony Galvan



Arnold Duenes



Shannon McKemie

Staff Council hosts event for Callier Center staff

By Katie Terry

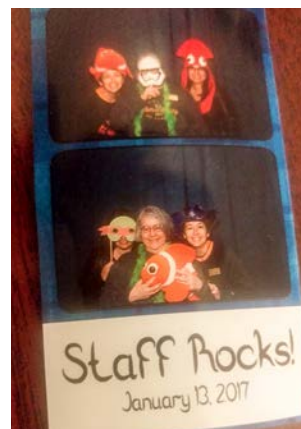
In the efforts to keep the friends at the Dallas location connected to the staff on campus, the UTD Staff Council's Staff Development team threw the second annual Staff Appreciation Day

at the Callier Center.

It was a rainy day in January, but the volunteers brought food, giveaways, and gifts to raffle off. The celebration was topped off with a personal "Thank You" from Leanne Young, executive director of the Brain Performance In-

stitute, letting the staff know that she is "in awe of the amazing work done here."

The next Staff Appreciation Day will be on Campus this May with catering from Chartwells, games, giveaways, and karaoke!



Scenes from January's Staff Council appreciation event for the Callier Center.

HR Spotlight: Colleen Dutton

By Katie Terry

Recently, we have all felt the changes at UTD while we adjust to the new FLSA program and state wide hiring freeze, but we do not often get the opportunity to see the people behind the scenes making everything move. I had the opportunity to sit down with our very own Colleen Dutton, the Associate Vice President of Human Resources, and meet the woman that helps keep it all running.

Colleen was born in upstate New York (almost to Canada) and she used to own a floral business for weddings and parties. While running this business she had the opportunity to meet Dennis Quaid when she did the flowers for his nieces wedding.



Colleen Dutton

Colleen's biggest weakness is chocolate and chocolate chip cookies and puppies – more specifically her two puppies, Macy and Maggie. Outside of work, she loves to cook, go to Pilates, and spend time with her husband, David.

I asked Colleen what her dream retirement job would be and, of course, it involves puppies. Colleen hopes that when she is ready to retire she can open up the "Puppy Pit" or "Kitty Cage" and have people go in to distress with some furry friends! It makes sense that when I asked if she could be any animal she would be a puppy. "[I would be] a cute

adorable puppy, because who doesn't love an adorable puppy!"

As an HR leader, Colleen approaches her job thinking more on the side of organizational development and coaching rather than black and white end discussions. The top characteristics she aims to create in HR are integrity, trust, and respect; ensuring that all the individuals that visit HR know they are valued members at UTD and they matter.

In asking Colleen about her biggest strength, she mentioned her ability to listen and empathize. That empathy reminds her of how necessary it is to keep the 'human' in human resources; "at the end of every issue is a person that goes home at night and says 'honey, guess what happened today!'"

University to Become Tobacco-Free Campus

Editor's Note: The University announced earlier this semester that campus would become tobacco-free. This policy goes into effect next month. Below is information listed on the Office of Administration website about the policy.

On June 1, the entire UT Dallas campus is going tobacco-free.

The use of tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes, hookahs, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, etc.) will be prohibited everywhere on campus in order to create a healthier work,

research and learning environment.

Under the current policy, all buildings are already tobacco-free, and the use of tobacco products is prohibited within 10 meters of Berkner Hall, the Natural Science and Engineering Research Laboratory (NSERL), and all sidewalks, walkways, parking lots, and attached parking structures immediately adjacent to either building.

A task force is currently working to update the University's tobacco-free policy and signage, as well as ensure effective education and cessation resources are provided to the campus community.

Visit utdallas.edu/tobaccofree for information on the new policy, as well as programs offered to staff, faculty and students who want to quit using tobacco products.



Signs have been put up around campus to announce the upcoming tobacco-free policy.

The Student Services Addition debuted during the spring semester.



Student Services Addition provides needed space

By Shelly Turner

Over the winter break, construction of the Student Services Building Addition (SSA) was completed, providing much-needed event, meeting, office and study space at UT Dallas.

The building is the new home for the Comet Card Office (formerly the Comet Center), the Student Union & Activities Advisory Board, Student Programs, the Office of Student Volunteerism, the Military and Veteran Services Center, the Center for Students in Recovery and the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs.

The 68,000-square-foot facility also features a 530-seat auditorium, food and retail locations and a gaming wall to enhance the student experience and encourage social gatherings.

On Feb. 2, the University officially celebrated the addition's opening

with a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony.

To kick off the event, President Richard Benson introduced Dr. Gene Fitch, the Vice President of Student Affairs, who outlined the evolution of the building from initial plans to opening and thanked all those who oversaw the construction. Fitch also highlighted the desire to enhance the student experience on campus.

Benson then introduced the president of Student Government, Akshitha Padigela, as well as other students chosen to speak on behalf of several offices that are now housed in the building.

Sociology senior Shannon Angel, the representative from the Center for Students in Recovery, discussed how their office is helping support students through challenges of recovery that could impede their suc-

cess at UT Dallas. Physics senior Shawhin Talebi, from the Student Union & Activities Advisory Board, spoke about his passion of being active in the campus community and helping shape campus experience. Biology senior Michelle Noble, the representative from the Military and Veteran Center, discussed how their center gave her assistance with the transition and guidance to college and civilian life while giving a sense of community.

Dr. Calvin Jamison, vice president for administration, thanked all those in facilities management who oversaw construction and organized the move into the building. Richardson Mayor Paul Voelker concluded the dedication ceremony by thanking city council members and local businesses for their continued collaboration with UT Dallas and its students.



Healthy Eats: Vending machines with healthy food options can be found in the Activity Center, the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building, the Eugene McDermott Library, Founders Building (pictured), the Naveen Jindal School of Management building and Recreation Center West. Auxiliary Services provides a full listing of campus vending machines on its website: <http://www.utdallas.edu/services/dining/vending/#>

Staff Council Announces Scholarship Winners

By Dennis Guten

Each Spring and Fall semester, Staff Council awards a number of \$250 scholarships to staff members meeting specific criteria.

Applicants must have been employed at UTD for a minimum of six months, must be benefits eligible and fall within GPA ranges to be considered.

The number of scholarships varies per semester and the awards will be presented at a general meeting of the Staff Council.

The deadline for spring is February 15 and for fall it is September 15.

[See the website for full criteria.](#)



Four of the fall scholarship winners with members Chad Thomas and Naomi Emmett, president of the Staff Council.

Rec Sports helps campus community with resolutions

By Frances Branham

“The secret to change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”
– Socrates

Last January, if you happened to pass through the Activity Center on the morning of the ninth, you might have been the lucky recipient of one of many Happy Healthy Meals that were being distributed by the Student Wellness Center, with a little help from Recreational Sports. It was the kick-off to a six week joint venture between the two departments to encourage our UT Dallas community to embrace health and wellness not just for the month of January, but throughout the year.

This was the second of what we hope becomes an annual event called Resolution Revolution. My collaborator, Sara Asberry, and I were on a mission to inspire positive changes by offering free activities at least once a week for six weeks. Sara is the Registered Dietician at the Student Wellness Center, and I am the Fitness Coordinator for Recreational Sports. Our holistic approach to health and wellness meant that our agenda included a little something for everyone.

On offer were two buddy yoga workshops, a cooking demonstration, a black light dance party, and an oatmeal breakfast bar. We also featured a different free group fitness class each week. In the buddy yoga workshops participants learned to work together, supporting one another in a variety of poses. The multi-purpose room at the AC was packed, and I’ve never heard so much laughter in a workshop! People were

engaged, communicating, and having a blast.

The cooking demonstration served as a way to promote a new social media campaign called “Healthy Comet Eats.” Healthy Comet Eats has its own YouTube channel and Instagram account. This is a collection of quick, healthy, and budget friendly cooking videos to inspire the UTD community to enhance the nutritional value of their food. The participants were able to sample food featured in some of the videos, interact with the staff that oversees the community garden, and they had a chance to win cooking equipment!

The oatmeal breakfast bar was set up in the lobby of Founders on a cool February morning. Provided by Chartwells, there was plenty of oatmeal with an array of toppings both savory and sweet. Sara and I both went back to the bar a couple of times, and especially loved the fresh toasted coconut. It was gratifying to

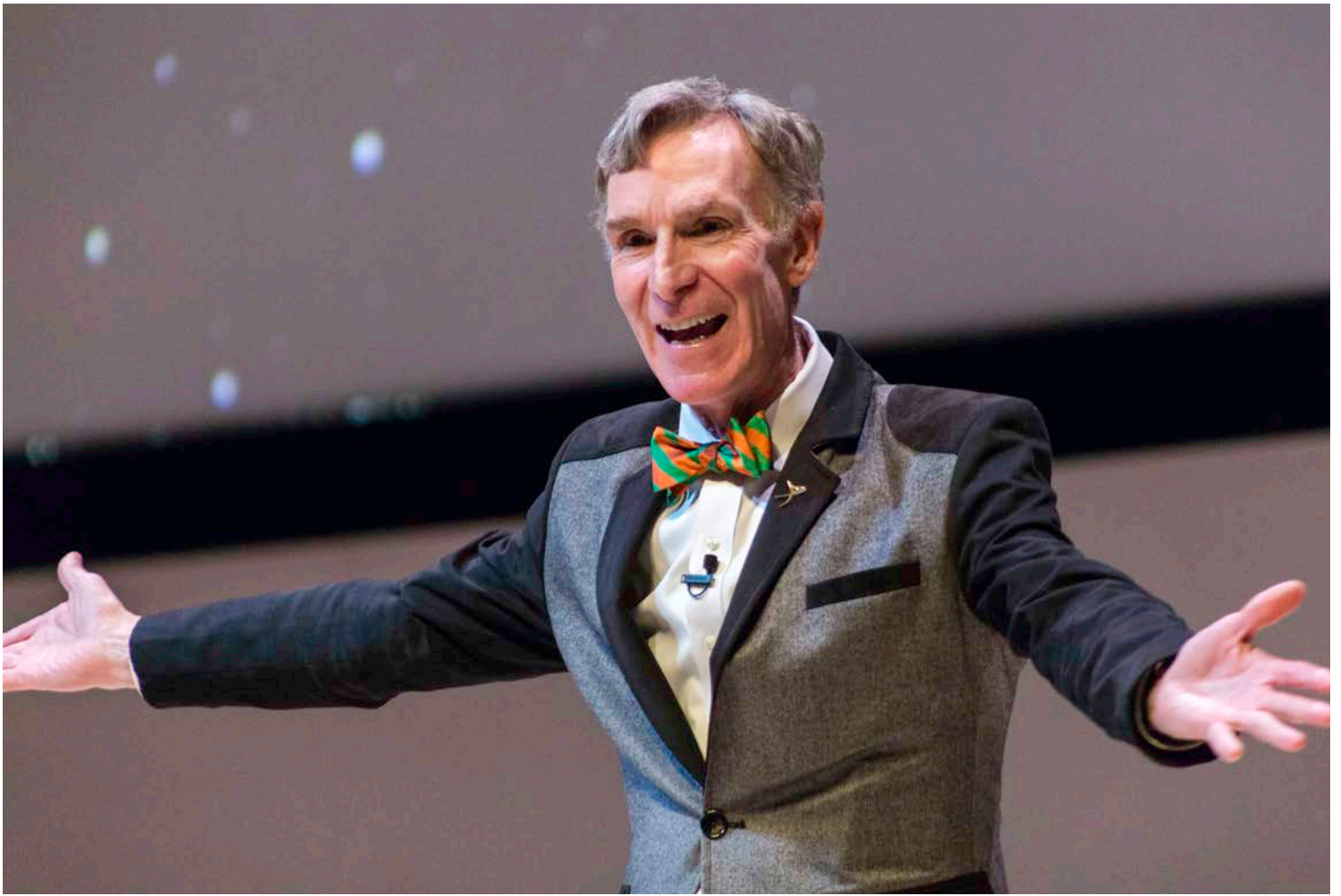
see everyone trying plain oatmeal and adding fresh ingredients for flavor as opposed to buying pre-flavored oatmeal with added sugar.

Perhaps the highlight of the series was the Black Light Dance Party, which took place in the AC Auxiliary Gym. Mac Siner, the Assistant Director of Facilities, made the event truly spectacular when he provided Climbing Wall staff so the crowd of just under 200 participants could do some black-light climbing, black-light spinning on bikes, or keep their feet semi on the ground as they tore up the dance floor.

With a tag line of “real change requires resolution,” the Resolution Revolution series aims to deliver happy, fun, tasty experiences. Sara and I will present Resolution Revolution every year, so look for the RR schedule when you come to campus in January of 2018.

Below: A session of buddy yoga





Bill Nye Caps Springapalooza

By Beverly Reed

The Student Union & Activities Advisory Board's welcome-back-from-Spring-Break celebration, "Springapalooza," was a spectacular, entertaining, fun-filled week of activities that was highlighted by a lecture by Bill Nye.

The Science Guy spoke to a packed ATEC lecture hall — the event was also livestreamed to the new Student Services Addition auditorium — after a meet and greet. During his talk, Nye phoned fellow scientist Neil deGrasse Tyson, who shared advice via speaker phone to the audience.

SUAAB kicked off the week with the

Fun Fun Food Fest, which featured a variety of cuisine and music on the mall, and Splatterdance, the popular annual paint party during which students dance into the evening and splatter each other with multi-colored glow paint.

Comedian Rory Scovel was featured in this year's Big Bad Comedy Show, and the bands Thirdstory and Coin played the Totally Awesome Concert at TI Plaza. Other events included the 30th annual Casino Night, the Spring Fun Raiser for campus organizations, the annual Comet Con and a screening of *Star Wars: Rogue One*.

Kudos to the SUAAB staff who helped put on a memorable Springapalooza!



Top: Bill Nye speaks to the ATEC lecture hall audience.

Above: Students packed the hall to listen to The Science Guy.

Support



Wash at Legends!

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Left: Harsha Batra paints Yifan Yin's forehead with a red dot for good luck during International Week's Passport to the World event. Right: As part of the weeklong festivities, students were invited to learn how to prepare different dishes from India. Information technology graduate student Krishna Jonnalagadda shared how to make vegetarian pulao, one of his favorite southern Indian dishes.

Diversity celebrated during International Week

By Pam Stanley

The annual International Week is filled with opportunities to explore world cultures while remaining right here on our diverse campus.

Activities throughout the week are hosted by various centers, departments and student groups in an effort to further promote understanding and break down barriers.

The 2017 iWeek kicked off with Passport to the World. Hosted in the Visitors Center, this lively event allowed student groups to showcase cultures using music, food, and traditional dress. Voting occurred for the Best Cuisine (Israel), Best National Dress (Ethiopia), Most Informative (Iran), Most Creative (Sri Lanka), Best Hospitality (Bangladesh), Best Newcomer

(Sudan) and Best in Show (India).

UTD Dining Services hosted a number of events throughout the week, including hosting an Asado — an Argentine-style barbecue where the meats are attached to a vertical spit and slowly grilled over an open fire — and an international teaching kitchen where students helped prepare and serve a variety of Indian dishes. The department also hosted West World Fair, during which Dining Hall West was transformed to reflect four different cuisines: Korean, Indian, Latin and Italian.

The International Center and Recreational Sports put on table tennis and badminton tournaments. The International Center also hosted the International Brew House in the Faculty/Staff Dining Room, which promoted

teas and coffees from all the over the globe, along with traditional pastries to sample as well.

“We host this because we really want to show the importance of tea and coffee from all over the world,” said Jennifer Smith, assistant director of international programs. “This event also brings awareness to study abroad programs we offer.”

A few of the other events held during the week were Diversity Games, which consisted of Diversity Trivia, Multi-Family Feud and the Great Gummy Bear Challenge; a henna session hosted by the International Center and Galerstein Women’s Center; and the Global Talent Show, which capped the week’s events.

Dennis Guten contributed to this story.

In Case You Missed It...



More than 70 faculty and staff members participated in the UT System Heart Walk on Feb. 10. The 10-minute walk is held annually to promote awareness for heart health.



The audience community reads part of a litany, "Martin's Beloved Community," at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Breakfast in January.



The Office of Research created the S.S. Research during the fifth annual Raising Cans event, which featured student groups, campus departments and local businesses creating sculptures with non-perishable food and personal care items. The event benefitted the Comet Cupboard.

Welcome, new UT Dallas employees!

Ahluwalia, Gurvinder	Computer Science	Gearey, Wayne	Geography & Geospatial Science
Ahmed, Shaheen	Behavioral And Brain Sciences	Ghai, Rajesh	Management
Alejandra Gonzalez Gonzalez, Maria	Bioengineering	Ginevich, Rostislav	Management
Alexander, Bart	Facilities Management	Goffman, Lisa	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Alford, Jennifer	Behavioral And Brain Sciences	Good, Levi	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Allbaugh, Alicia	Development & Alumni Relations	Graham, Elizabeth	Management
Alvarez, Evan	Management	Graves, Kyle	Interdisciplinary Studies
Amalia Maese, Maria	Behavioral And Brain Sciences	Green, Josefina	Graduate Studies
Annavarapu, Mrunalini	Bursar Office	Green, Rosalyn	Activity Center
Aregbesola, Oluwafemi	Research	Grover, William	Economics
Arora, Rajan	OIT - Systems & Operations	Guo, Lan	Biological Sciences
Arts, Marvin	Human Resources	Hall, William	Facilities Management
Aydin, Burcak	Management	Hamilton, Brent	Enrollment Services
Bachani, Girish	Management	Hennessy, Emily	Interdisciplinary Studies
Baetge, Claire	Interdisciplinary Studies	Henslee, Austin	Management
Basl, Joseph	Facilities Management	Hiltz, Stephen	Arts and Humanities
Batiste, Bertrand	Student AccessAbility	Holton, Randall	University Police
Bayles-Simon, Michelle	Arts Tech And Comm	Horn, Scott	Geography & Geospatial Science
Belli, Melia	EOD Institute for Art History	Horner, Sean	Inventory And Surplus Control
Bengston, Sarah	Management	Howard, Chloe	Callier Center Communication
Bennett, Gina	Arts and Humanities	Hughes, Amy	Geography & Geospatial Science
Berger, Valeriy	Physics	Hunt, Cynthia	Management
Bernal Montoya, Rodrigo	Mechanical Engineering	Huo, Wenwen	Biological Sciences
Bonner, Deborah	Behavioral And Brain Sciences	Hyams-Brothman, Galite	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Brown, Allison	Behavioral And Brain Sciences	Irwin, George	Development & Alumni Relations
Buckley, Vannessa	Student Health Center	Jackson, Mara	SUAAB/Meteor Theatre
Budd, David	Technology Resources	Jacobus, Eva	Technology Resources
Burns, Alan	University Police	James-Romero, Kimberly	ECS Student Services
Burrell, Angeline	Space Sciences	Jimenez, Jose	Arts and Humanities
Callan, Tayler	Career Center	Johnson, Nitashia	Communications
Camp, Joy	Electrical Engineering	Joiner, James	Executive Education
Carroll, Tonya	Undergraduate Education	Jones, Kyle	Mechanical Engineering
Castillo, Jessica	Student Affairs Marketing	Jones, Richard	University Police
Chastain, Bryan	Geography & Geospatial Science	Keasler, Misty	Arts and Humanities
Chizeck, Susan	Interdisciplinary Studies	Kennedy, Brittany	Career Center
Coleman, Amanda	Arts and Humanities	Kernohan, Jamie	Management
Compton, Kristi	Behavioral And Brain Sciences	Khanapure, Revansiddha	Management
Cook, Ian	Student Success Center	Kinch, Laura	Management
Cooper Nevarez, Julie	Multicultural Center	Kinney, Robert	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Crumpecker, Brad	Management	Koehler, Aaron	Student Volunteerism
Davis, Richard	Management	Kromer, Jeffrey	Management
Dearing, Ronald	Management	Kumar, Jayprakash	Chemistry
Dill, Thomas	Geosciences	Kumaraju, Rajeshwari	Bioengineering
Djukic, Dragana	Development & Alumni Relations	Kuvet, Ashley	Vital Longevity
Dorsey, Sondrea	Enrollment Services	Kyle, John	Development & Alumni Relations
Downing, Markie	OIT - Systems & Operations	Lam, Suk-Wah	Student Health Center
Ellington, Lee	Management	Landrum, Brittany	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Ferrin, Nilufer	Arts Tech And Comm	Lapthisophon, Stephen	Arts and Humanities
Fontenot, Stephen	Communications	Lara, Bianca	Enrollment Management
Franklin, Joshua	Computer Science	Layton, Mark	Management
Frederiksen, Angela	Management	Lee, Barbara	Management
Furst, John	Management	Lemus, James	OIT - EAS
Gallagher, Judith	CBH Rypma	Lindsey, Nathan	Arts Tech And Comm
Garza, Ricardo	Undergraduate Education	Litwak, Shelley	ECS Student Services

Lois, Brian	Management	Sanchez, Oscar	Center for Brain Health
Lombardi, Christina	Behavioral And Brain Sciences	Sanderson, Scott	Management
Lopez Ibarra, Edgar	Facilities Management	Santhanakrishnan, Sailakshmi	Management
Lozano, Mario	Residential Life	Saracevic, Edisa	Management
Lumley, David	Lithospheric Studies	Savard, Ryan	Interdisciplinary Studies
Maddox, Julia	Arts and Humanities	Shaum, Robert	Management
Madonna, Thomas	Management	Shekhar, Gaurav	Management
Manor, Tina	Human Resources	Siegler, Matthew	Geosciences
Marlin, Robert	University Police	Silva Lozano, Luis	Career Center
Martin, Philip	Technology Resources	Singh, Sarbjit	Chemistry
Martinez, Isaura	Management	Sklenar, Courtney	Arts Tech And Comm
Mathew, Betty	Behavioral And Brain Sciences	Smart, Kristin	Vital Longevity
Matyk, Mallory	Student Success Center	Smith, Irma	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
McAlister, Karen	Student Transition Programs	Smith, Melinda	Interdisciplinary Studies
McClanahan, Zaquita	University Police	Sok, Mono	Facilities Management
McClellan, Tajuna	Undergraduate Education	Sparks, Ali	Enrollment Management
McCormac Crawford, Leslie	Development & Alumni Relations	Srivastava, Aditya	Computer Science
McKay, Brian	Criminology and Sociology	Sundholm, Joshua	Activity Center
McManis, Rosalie	Technology Resources	Tang, Jiajun	Financial Mgmt Services
Mendez, Yessenia	VP Budget & Finance	Taylor, Debbie	Facilities Management
Merrill, Julie	Interdisciplinary Studies	Tiesman, Stephen	Print Shop
Michaud, Patrick	Engineering & Computer Science	Trammell, James	Facilities Management
Miranda, Kristine	Center for Brain Health	Tucker, Regina	Student Organization Center
Modjarrad, Shahin	Political Science	Tuggle, Samuel	Arts Tech And Comm
Mohammadi, Alireza	Bioengineering	Van de Put, Maarten	Material Science Engineering
Moonesinghe, Mark	Management	Vickers, Jeremy	Management
Moore, Lindsay	Arts and Humanities	Walker, Nicholas	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Moseni, Sheila	Enrollment Management	Wang, Yi	Management
Mukherjee, Shukla	Research	Watkins, Latoya	Arts and Humanities
Nabeel, Syed	Management	Webb, Jennifer	Electrical Engineering
Nauta, Megan	Behavioral And Brain Sciences	Weiland, David	Arts and Humanities
Nirmal, Nikunj	Management	Weston, Re'Nesha	Student Wellness Center
Nketia, Joseph	Management	Williams, Jessica	Management
O'Brien, Cheryl	Enrollment Management	Williams, Lashun	Records and Registration
Okun, Alec	Behavioral And Brain Sciences	Willoughby, Robert	Research
Packard, Christopher	Public & Nonprofit Management	Wolfe, Bryan	Behavioral And Brain Sciences
Palant, Jonathan	Arts and Humanities	Woody, Robert	Research
Paliwal, Payal	Facilities Management	Yoas, Greg	Callier Center Communication
Parker, John	Criminology and Sociology	Zamarripa, Leticia	International Center
Peabody, Stephen	Management	Zhang, Guilin	Management
Pearson, Robert	Graduate Studies	Ziller, Anricka	Engineering & Computer Science
Peerson, Rane	Learning Technologies	Zoller, Kim	Executive Education
Pegram, Khristopher	University Library		
Penney, Megan	Development & Alumni Relations		
Plasse, Marsha	Undergraduate Education		
Qualheim, Alissa	International Center		
Rajanna, Amogh	Computer Science		
Rangel-Uribe, Cristina	Behavioral And Brain Sciences		
Reifer, Sol	Management		
Rice, April	Financial Aid		
Rich, Judith	Behavioral And Brain Sciences		
Riley, Kristin	Arts and Humanities		
Ritter, Julia	Research		
Roberts, Andrea	Enrollment Management		
Rodriguez, Sanjuana	Callier Center Communication		
Rosa, Jonathan	Interdisciplinary Studies		
Saar Hambazaza, Terje	Arts and Humanities		
Salter, Elizabeth	Interdisciplinary Studies		
Samuelsen, Cindy	Center for Brain Health		



Looking Back: A view from above at Founders Building, the transmission tower and the surrounding prairie land from about 50 years ago.

Meet your Staff Council representatives



Rebecca Ballard
District 4

My family moved to Richardson eight years ago from Boulder, Colorado, where I worked at the University of Colorado. I knew that I wanted to keep working in higher education, and happily that became reality when I was hired at UT Dallas seven years ago. My current position in the Registrar's office is Assistant Director for Records and Registration on the Technical Operations Team. When I am not at work, I spend a lot of time watching soccer games since all three of my boys and my husband play soccer. Shortly after starting here at UT Dallas, I joined the Community Chorale and if I get a hint that someone may be a singer, I'm likely to start recruiting them to join as well. One of the really great things about working at UT Dallas is the ability to have a good work/life balance. As a member of Staff Council, I would like to help publicize the ways that employees can achieve a good work/life balance, and take advantage of the programs that the Council and the University provides.



Frankie Branham
District 2

Prior to becoming a member of the UTD Recreational Sports professional staff five years ago, Frankie Branham was already a familiar face in the Activity Center. She taught several group fitness classes, including Zumba and Pilates, and worked one on one with clients as a personal trainer. She was delighted to join the staff first as the Membership Services Coordinator, and later as the Fitness Coordinator. She also serves on the Wellness Committee as a non-voting member. Frankie's passion is helping people achieve happiness.



Matthew Brown

As a Christian, I am excited to serve the university on Staff Council and represent the Office of Financial Aid. I am currently a Quality Control Officer in this department and I have been enjoying my time here at UTD for almost two years. I happily married to my beautiful soulmate, Lori Brown, who is a TV News Reporter for Fox 4, and God has blessed with two beautiful children: McShayne, 3 years old, and Bella, 10 months. I have been in higher ed for nine years as I have had the pleasure of covering most all of the different aspects of it: Student Services, Financial Aid, Quality Control, Adjunct Professor, VA, and Recruiting. I am happy to be a representative of Staff Council as I have been involved in former local grass-roots, bipartisan capacities including a run for California State Assembly when I was in college at USC.



Michele Brown
District 1

I am originally from Syracuse, New York (Upstate NY). I graduated from Syracuse University with a B.S. in IT in the Spring of 2000. I have been at UTD almost 10 years, and I have been serving on Staff Council for almost 4 years. I currently work in Materials Science Engineering.



Marcos Chavez
District 5

Marcos Chavez is the Academic Support Coordinator for the Cognition and Neuroscience PhD program. Previously, he worked in Student Life and has been employed at UT Dallas for eleven years. Marcos holds a BA in Political Science from the University of North Texas.



Naomi Emmett
District 1

I have been with the University since October 28, 2009. I have had the privilege to work in various departments on campus. I began as the Scholarship Coordinator in Financial Aid. I've also worked in the Budget Office and the Audit Office and for Dr. Jamison and the Office of Administration. Currently, I am the Fiscal Officer for the Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science. I've served the last four years on Staff Council and have sat on the Benefits Committee first year as a member and second year as the Chair. The past two years, I've had the joy and privilege of serving as the President of Staff Council. I also serve as a representative for the Employee Advisory Council. In the almost eight years here at UTD, not only have I had the opportunity to gain incredible work experience and work alongside some outstanding employees, I also was given the opportunity to finish my Bachelor's Degree. My husband and I have been married for 23 years this July. We have three children — two in college and one is a junior at Allen High School. Our family is very active in our church, where I serve as a pianist and co-treasurer. I also enjoy quilting, running, Fun fact: In 2008, my husband and I ran the Chicago Marathon! I also enjoy murder mysteries!



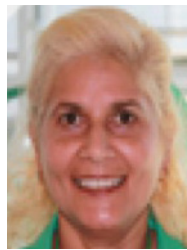
Charlotte Mason
District 3

Charlotte Mason is an Administrative Assistant in the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication. She has been with UT Dallas for six years. She started in Bioengineering, then worked in Budget for a year before joining Arts and Humanities working in ATEC and EMAC before it became a school. She enjoys helping people, meeting new employees and learning more about the university. In her free time she enjoys dancing, knitting, crocheting and other crafts.



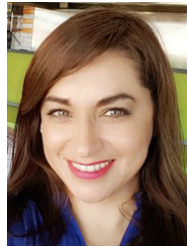
Chris Milazzo
District 6

Chris grew up in Dallas, received his BFA in Fine Arts in Cinema from SMU, and worked at SMU for about 30 years. He has been at UTD for about 18 months and works for the McDermott Library as a Systems Analyst for the IT department. He enjoys live music, movies and collecting way too much stuff — and local craft beer; he really likes local craft beer.



Seanne Rackal-Childs
District 1

Seanne Rackal-Childs began working at UTD five years ago. She is a seasoned professional who works in the Bursar's Office. Seanne has over 30 years of experience in accounting and leadership. She is so happy to make a positive difference in the lives of Students; future leaders; University Staff and Faculty whom she has the pleasure of interacting with on a daily basis. Her unique background in customer service for both internal and external customers coupled with strong emotional intelligence skills serves to benefit both the University and any of the specific endeavors that the Staff Council chooses to pursue.



Summer Rangel
District 1

Summer will celebrate her two year work anniversary in June. She works as a staff accountant in the Bursar's Office. Summer handles financial refunds for student accounts at UT Dallas and coordinates with Auxiliary Services to record meal plans. Summer enjoys training graduate level accounting students using tax software in a real life tax environment.

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Brian Scott
District 6

Brian is a Dallas native as well as a UTD alumnus. He has been employed with the Office of Research at UTD for over 5 years and has been on campus since 2008. “UTD has given me the chance to grow personally and professionally, and I enjoying serving on Staff Council as it allows me to be more involved on campus. Staff Council provides me with the ability to represent my peers as well as the chance to learn more about the UTD community and culture outside of the Office of Research.” In his off time Brian enjoys cooking — especially BBQ — and being outside. He lives near White Rock Lake, so he enjoys taking advantage of the trails and parks by the lake.



Pam Stanley
District 6

Pam is the project administrator for Auxiliary Services, which includes Food Services, Bookstore, Technology Store, Parking & Transportation, Logistics and Mail Services. The insight and behind-the-scenes experience of her office has given her a “big picture” perspective of UT Dallas. In her off time, Pam enjoys reading, traveling, wine tasting, amateur photography and spending time outdoors. If her friends and family can be there for any of the above, all the better.



David Richardson
District 2

David joined UT Dallas in 2012 and is currently the Financial Analyst for the Natural Science & Math Dean’s office. David has served on Staff Council for the past three years. As a Staff Council member, he has been on the fundraising committee, helping to lower costs and increase profits for scholarships. He serves on the Student Fee Advisory and the Auxiliary Advisory Committees. He is currently President of his church’s Singles over 40 Ministry and enjoys spending time with his four adult children and friends. He likes travelling, especially going on cruises, and playing cards, Risk, chess and racquetball.



Carrilaine Schnecker
District 2

Carrilaine has worked at UTD for a little over 11 years, first in the Chemistry Department, then the Multicultural Center, and now in the Office of Graduate Studies. She started out as a Secretary II and is now an Administrative Assistant II. During her time on Staff Council she’s been on the fundraising and benefits committees. She has a husband, three children, a son-in-law and two grandchildren. Aside from being a grandmother, her hobbies are needlepoint, what her husband calls “inferior decorating,” genealogy and helping her husband tend to his pet chickens.



Kathlyn (Katie) Terry
District 3

Kathlyn (Katie) Terry joined the Staff Council in 2015 and took on the role of communications committee chairperson. Katie’s role at UTD is the Graduate Application Processor in the Jindal School of Management Advising Office, and she is currently pursuing her Masters of Science in Public Affairs; which she will finish in December 2017. Prior to her joining the UTD team, she worked in a dance school that specialized in ballroom dance and dreams of ball gowns and dance parties. When Katie is not in her office or in class, she is planning her upcoming wedding (May 2017), ballroom dancing, or snuggling with her two puppies: Soli and Luna.



Cynthia Seton-Rogers
District 3

Cynthia Seton-Rogers has been a student at UT Dallas for 10 years and as an employee for eight years. She graduated with her BA in 2009 and her MA in 2011 and is currently finishing her PhD in History of Ideas. She worked as a graduate assistant for five years with the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies where she was hired in 2014 as a Communications Specialist, a position she still holds. Mrs. Seton-Rogers has four children, ranging in ages from 1 to 18 years of age, and she is hopeful that at least one of her children will follow in her footsteps and be a proud Comet.



Melani Sherbet
District 6

Melani Sherbet is the Administrative Assistant in the Military and Veteran Center (MVC). She celebrates her fourth year with the University in September. Melani appreciates the diversity and activity of UTD. She enjoys working with staff in various departments and interacting daily with the students she serves. When not on campus, Melani loves to spend time with her family. She has been married to her husband Mike for 25 years. They have two grown kids, the oldest graduated from UT Dallas last December. Whoosh!



Jazzmyn Wilson
District 6

Jazzmyn has been with UT Dallas since 2008. She graduated with an Interdisciplinary Studies bachelor’s degree, concentrating in Healthcare and Management. She started working full-time at the University in 2013 in the Jonsson School. She recently celebrated one year with the Office of Budget and Finance, where she works in Financial Management Services. She was born and raised in Dallas and is currently working to give back to her community as an Albert Schweitzer Fellow. She looks forward to using her dual MBA and MS in Information Technology & Management degrees in my future career in IT Consulting.

In Memoriam

John George
1977-2017

John George, a longtime UT Dallas employee, passed away Jan. 20. George, who worked at UT Dallas for 21 years, began his career working in a warehouse and eventually became print and logistics manager for the University's print and copy services.

"John oversaw everything that was printed for the University," said Chris Rench, assistant director of print, copy and logistics. "He was a dear friend and colleague of many of us at UTD and will be sorely missed. Printing Services will never be the same without him."



John Maynard
1953-2017

Longtime employee John Maynard, an engineering technician in the Natural Science and Engineering Research Laboratory, passed away Jan. 20 at the age of 63. Maynard, a Dallas native, worked in the Cleanroom Research Laboratory (CRL), and joined the UT Dallas staff in November 2000. He served with the Navy during the Vietnam War. CRL associate director Wallace Martin worked with Maynard for 13 years. "We will miss John for his friendship and sense of humor," Martin said. "His experience will be difficult to replace."

