TI, UTD celebrate virtual groundbreaking

Texas Instruments and the University of Texas at Dallas held simultaneous, virtual groundbreakings November 18th for two new North Texas facilities.

Texas Instruments’ $3 billion semiconductor manufacturing complex, in Richardson near the UTD campus, will build semiconductors on 300-millimeter silicon wafers. When fully staffed, the facility is expected to employ up to 1,000 people.

UTD’s $85 million Natural Science and Engineering Research Building is expected to add momentum to UTD’s drive to become one of the nation’s tier one academic research institutions.

Gov. Rick Perry was the keynote speaker at the ceremony at UTD. Leaders from Texas Instruments, the University of Texas System, the city of Richardson and other entities were on hand for the ceremony.

Following speeches by the dignitaries, more than 300 guests saw a virtual groundbreaking in which a giant lever signaled earth-moving equipment at the two building sites -- less than a mile apart in Richardson -- to scoop a load of earth as a symbolic start to construction.

Construction of the TI facility is expected to take 12 to 14 months. The research building is expected to be completed by the summer of 2006.

Richardson Mayor Gary Slagel predicted that the Texas Instruments facility would add thousands of jobs to the city’s workforce.

"Initially, those new jobs will come during the year-plus construction phase and later grow as the staffing of the plant grows up to 1,000 workers at full capacity production," he said. "But the jobs will also come as companies locate or expand here to take advantage of the innovation and business opportunities created by the Texas Instruments 300-mm chip manufacturing operation and the increasing research capabilities at UTD."

Employee Tuition and Fee Waiver Benefit Program

Full time employees who have been with the University for at least one year and who meet University admission standards are eligible to take advantage of the Tuition and Fee Waiver Benefit. In the past employees could have a number of their fees wavered. Now a major portion of tuition can be wavered. This results in a considerable financial savings and a significant benefit to any employee trying to develop their skills or pursuing more education.

The Office of Human Resources conducted two seminars last fall to explain the benefit program. Another will be scheduled in April. Details about the benefit are available on-line at http://www.utdallas.edu/utdgeneral/business/hr/employee_tuitionBenefit.htm

Update on the Presidential Search

The delay in the UTD Presidential search moved forward when The University of Texas System Board of Regents named Dr. David E. Daniel as an additional finalist on December 10, 2004. Dr. Daniel serves as dean and professor of civil engineering in the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He earned his Ph.D. in civil engineering from The University of Texas at Austin, and was a member of the engineering faculty there until 1996 when he moved to the University of Illinois. He won the American Society of Civil Engineers highest award for papers published in its journals and in 2000 was elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

There were campus visits by Dr. David Daniel on January 19th and 20th.

Balloon Sales

Keep February 14th open on your calendar for our annual Valentine Balloon Sale. We are again offering red heart Mylar balloons. Booths will be set on in various locations across campus to make your purchase. Also, be on the lookout for the strolling balloon vendors throughout campus as well! All proceeds benefit the Staff Scholarship Fund.
**Focus on the Staff**

**NEW EMPLOYEES**

NOVEMBER 2004

Veronica Alarcon  
George Aylesworth  
Erika Brock  
Sandra Crowder  
Cody Crudington  
Bridge Fairinella  
Michelle Gay  
Leandre Hutchings  
Charlene Jones  
Brenda Mantooth  
Susan Marsh  
Susan McKee  
Haywood McNeill  
John Perry  
Norma Richardson  
Ray Salinas  
Kendra Sikes  
Mary Spalding  
Kathryn Torres  
Bryan Whitt  
Jillian Zeiger

DECEMBER 2004

Sharon Allen  
Reza Baiczewska  
Marcia Champion  
Mario Alejandro de la Torre  
Juan Du  
Nada El-Sayed  
Justin Harms  
Sandra Hart  
Kimberley Little  
Wallace Martin  
Eric Modern  
Sophia Orme  
Margaret Oxford  
Elizabeth Ramirez  
Shimi Wei

**Retirees**

Delva Culp

**New Staff Suggestion Form Online**

The Staff Council now has an updated web-based form to provide online submission of your suggestions. See: [http://www.utdallas.edu/utdgeneral/staffcouncil/](http://www.utdallas.edu/utdgeneral/staffcouncil/). Click the “Suggestions” link.

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**Women’s Self Defense Class**

The UTD Police Department offers a free self defense class for all women who are faculty, staff or students. The classes are held once a month or twice if enough people are interested. Officers’ Kendra Penny and Terry McCurry are both RAD (Rape, Aggression, Defense) instructors who coordinate the program. Those people who have completed the course have raved about the quality of instruction. The class is 9 - 12 hours long over a 2-3 day time frame. You can even bring your daughter. If you were to take a physical defense course, you could expect to pay around $25.00, but this course is Free!

A book is provided along with a PowerPoint presentation to teach you how to recognize a dangerous situation and what you can do to be safe. Self defense moves are demonstrated and then practiced many times. The class is designed to work for any woman, regardless of age, size or strength. No prior experience is required and you don’t have to be in top shape to take the class.

The class practices crime scenarios with a police officer dressed in a “bad suit”. And in this case, a bad suit means much more than the jacket and pants are not pressed or color coordinated. The session is videotaped and reviewed to see what could have been done differently or what was executed correctly.

Jeannine Murphy of University Management Systems, took the class. She states, “Officer Penny and Officer McCurry do a wonderful job on educating us about how to keep from being a victim and if we are ever in danger, how to defend ourselves.”

Over 250,000 women across the country have taken and benefited from the RAD Basic Physical Defense Program. Why not join them and ranks of women at UTD like Jeannine Murphy who are choosing to increase their awareness and preparation and reduce their chances of becoming a victim?

For more information about the next RAD class, call the Campus Police (x2331) or visit their web page at: [http://www.utdallas.edu/utdgeneral/business/police/version5/ RAD.html](http://www.utdallas.edu/utdgeneral/business/police/version5/ RAD.html)

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**Fall 2004 CARE Awardees**

Join us in congratulating the Staff Council CARE Award Recipients for Fall 2004. Each recipient received a certificate and an engraved clock to commemorate his/her contribution to the university.

Sandy Bowen is highly sensitive to team spirit and morale, and is a great asset to her department and the university. Her tireless contributions are unmatched and invaluable, and she always seems willing to go out of her way to help others. She has a wonderful way of making people feel good about themselves. She was one of the original charter members of the Staff Council. Sandy is strongly respected by students and admired in her own department as well as by key personnel in other departments.

David Cady does not shirk his responsibilities nor does he expect anyone else to do his job. Always willing to help out a co-worker in need, he worked around the clock during the recent power outage. He is hard working, dependable and honest. With a constant smile, David always has something nice to say.

Sandra Mitchell has been known to bake items at home to have available for students in her office. Sandra makes everyone around her feel special and appreciated. She truly understands people. Though she is never a pushover, she does not make people feel uncomfortable with her honesty. She handles all situations with maturity and a humble nature. There is really nothing Sandra would not do for UTD.

Debbie Montgomery is a “go to” person for all kinds of library problems and over the years has worked herself up through the library ranks. She has a very high standard of ethics and a great sense of humor. She pursued her Masters of Library Science degree while keeping regular work hours, and graduated Summa Cum Laude. Debbie offers customer service at its best, with equal treatment for everyone and successful resolution.

Jerry Porter provides great leadership by setting the example. He is always seems willing to go out of his way to help even if someone calls late in the day. He is a very diplomatic person and has a great way of smoothing things over. Jerry is one of the university’s greatest assets.

Ann Shoftstall exemplifies the highest standards of care. Her sensitive nurturing has often been the biggest factor in students staying in the Teacher Development program and completing their certification. As an example, she has often chosen to complete paperwork on the weekends to make herself more available to students during the week. With respect and sensitivity Ann has advised thousands of UTD teacher candidates.

CARE Awards are given twice a year, the next nomination deadline is March 31, 2005. Nominate a deserving fellow employee. Nomination forms are found online at: [http://www.utdallas.edu/utdgeneral/staffcouncil/care.html](http://www.utdallas.edu/utdgeneral/staffcouncil/care.html)

**Retiree Association**

Last month the UTD Retirees were invited by Dr. Jenifer to attend the Fall Forum and then they were hosted by President Jenifer at a Luncheon in her honor. The association would like to express their appreciation to Dr. Jenifer for his generosity. In other Retiree Association news, Jean Stuart was elected President and three committees were formed in November. The Perquisite Committee will be led by Carla Carpenter and Betty Roth; the Fact Finding Committee will be led by Dr. Chris Parr; and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will be led by Sallie Mackey and Jo Ellen Roach.

**Poinsettia Sales**

Poinsettia sales were again a success this past holiday season. A total net profit of $1065.00 was raised to benefit the Staff Scholarship Fund. A big thank you goes out to the Fundraising Committee for their hard work and to all who made purchases.