HIGHLIGHTS

- Richard Benson officially named UTD President February 29th
- CARE Awards Honorees
- Letter from the Staff Council President
- Fall Staff Scholarship Winners
- Campus Highlight—Dr. Ozsváth

Have a suggestion for Staff Council?
www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil/suggestions.php
On December 10, six new CARE award honorees were added to the cumulative total of more than 190 recipients. Spotlighting staff deserving of special recognition by virtue of having “demonstrated superior performance, offered outstanding customer service or performed acts which have enhanced the image of the University,” CARE awards are one of the highest honors a staff member can receive.

The ceremony included remarks from Staff Council President Naomi Emmett and Hobson Wildenthal, President ad interim.

The Fall 2015 honorees are:
- Lisa Sunderland, Administrative Assistant, Undergraduate Education.
- Heather Burge, Business Manager, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.
- Lauren DeCillis, Director of the Women’s Center.
- Rena Piper, Event Planner, Office of Advancement.
- Minoo Anvari, Accountant, Natural Science and Mathematics Deans Office.
- John Turner, Maintenance Foreman, Facilities.

Don’t forget to nominate staff members for 2016 Spring CARE Awards!
Www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil/care.html The deadline is March 31st.
This past January the Staff Council’s Benefits Committee put on a staff appreciation for the Callier Center and Center for BrainHealth. It had been brought to the councils attention that many of our friends in those buildings were unable to make it over to the main campus for the annual appreciation day typically scheduled in May.

“[We wanted to make sure that] the staff felt as appreciated as they should be.” – Lynn Butler, Staff Development Committee Chairperson

With presentations, freebies, food and prizes, the event was so successful that the plan is to have a yearly appreciation on those campuses in addition to the annual appreciation day held on campus in May.
Tell us a little about yourself and your career at UT Dallas.

Mackenzie: “I serve as a Program Coordinator in the Office of Student Volunteerism (OSV). In this role, I create opportunities for students to engage in environmental volunteer work. I oversee the UT Dallas Community Garden program, Adopt-a-Highway cleanups, Operation Upcycle events, volunteer projects at the Butterfly Flutterby Monarch Waystation, Earth Week coordination, and monthly donation drives.”

Diana: “As UT Dallas undergraduate student, I met Dr. Calvin Jamison as part of my Student Government President duties. Little did I know, I would end up as a Project Coordinator for the Office of Administration in 2012! Working with Dr. Jamison and his staff gave me a foundational understanding of university operations as well as insight into a variety of issues for a fast-growing institution. In 2013, I became a Program Coordinator for the McDermott Scholars Program and have had the opportunity to work with some of the most incredible staff and students. I started transitioning to recruitment-related duties in 2014 and officially became the Marketing Manager in 2015. I’ve been happily working with the McDermott Scholars ever since.”

Chad: “I’ve been the Director of Student Media at UT Dallas since 2010 after transitioning from the newspaper industry where I covered local government and business. I’m fortunate enough to spend most days interacting with the creative students who put together news and entertainment products and programs for AMP, Radio UTD, The Mercury and UTD TV. It’s fun to coach them and watch them develop as communicators and leaders. The staff I work with are great people who are incredibly supportive of our students.”

How do you feel continuing your education helps you to benefit the University as an employee?

Mackenzie: “My coursework in Public Affairs has helped me to better comprehend the complex issues facing communities, and how to best address them. UTD Professor Young-Joo Lee’s research interests in volunteering, philanthropic giving, group dynamics, and community building strongly align with my interest in community and civic engagement. Her exploration of the motivation and retention of volunteers is especially relevant to my work with the OSV, as it helps shed light on best practices with regard to volunteer management. It’s been fun to integrate course material into my current work!”

Diana: “My marketing classes have taught me basic concepts in marketing, exposed me to available technologies, and enabled me to test out new recruiting approaches so that the Program can implement more complex strategies. We have had record numbers – in quality and quantity – of high-achieving students apply to the McDermott Scholars Program in the most recent years since I started my marketing program. And now all of the students who applied to the McDermott Scholars Program know about UT Dallas! It’s been exciting to be a part of attracting top talent to our university!”

Chad: “So much of what I learn in the classroom has motivated me to be a better employee, teacher and supervisor. Meanwhile, being able to learn from faculty and study alongside staff from across the university really opened my eyes to the amount of work that goes into the day-to-day functioning of the university. I think I’ve gained a greater appreciation for the people who make UT Dallas what it is.”

What made you decide to continue your education?

Mackenzie: “I wanted to continue my education to further examine civic engagement and the ways in which its application can strengthen communities and enrich the human experience.”

Diana: “My duties in the McDermott Scholars Program started shifting toward marketing, and I wanted to find ways to continually contribute to my department. The MS in Marketing has made a significant impact in providing the strategy and tools needed to bring the program to the next level in recruiting.”

Chad: “Working at UT Dallas provides staff with a great opportunity to further their education, whether it’s to earn a bachelor’s or an advanced degree. I’ve known for a long time that I wanted to get my doctorate at some point. When I took a closer look at the Public Affairs program here, it made so much sense to get involved in that program and work with the tremendous faculty we have.”

By Cynthia Seton-Rogers

The Staff Council proudly announces the recipients of the Spring 2016 staff scholarship. Awardees receive $250 to be used to further their education in academic or vocational programs.

The spring recipients are: Eric Fackler (McDermott Scholars), Blair Flicker (Assistant Provost), Mackenzie Hunter (Student Volunteerism), Dorothea Junt (Facilities Management), Diana Kao (McDermott Scholars), Jon-Paul McGowan (Learning Technologies), Samantha Preisser (Research), Laura Smith (Judicial Affairs Officer), Chad Thomas (Student Media), Jessica Shepard Watts (Development & Alumni Relations). The fall 2016 application deadline is September 15. More information and a link to the application can be found at: www.utdallas.edu/staffcouncil/scholarship.html
We will host Coffee with the President in March, Spring CARE Awards and a Staff Appreciation Day on the main campus, both scheduled for May.

Highlights for 2014-2015 included working with Dr. Calvin Jamison to see the creation of two additional lactation rooms, bringing the total to four areas on campus: Founders North, the Women’s Center, the ROC, and Research. The Staff Council Fundraising Committee raised $3,500 for scholarships and the Staff Development Committee and HR partnered to create a future series titled “Creating a Culture of Dignity and Respect”. Staff Council was fortunate to hire a part-time administrative assistant, Jamie Abrams, who has proven to be a valuable asset to the organization. Unfortunately, Staff Council has lost several members this year due to workload issues and employees leaving the University for new opportunities. We have been able to fill most of the vacant positions, but are always in need of alternates. If you are interested in joining, either as an alternate or running for general election in July, please contact myself or your district representatives.

With half the year remaining, Staff Council still has much to accomplish. I want to thank all who serve on the Council. Your efforts and hard work do not go unnoticed. You are what makes Staff Council so great. I also want to thank the staff for all they do to help make the University the success it has become. I’m honored to be the President of Staff Council.

Naomi Emmett
In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas that she founded, the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies is hosting An Evening with Zsuzsi on Sunday, April 17, 2016 to honor Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth for her decades of teaching, mentoring, and community outreach in order to raise awareness of the Holocaust and its legacy. Dr. Ozsváth is a world-renowned Holocaust scholar who has dedicated her life to her students and helping to shape the future of Holocaust studies. Dr. Ozsváth personifies The Ackerman Center’s motto “teaching the past, changing the future.” Under her direction the Holocaust Studies Program has transformed into a distinguished center of excellence in teaching, learning and research. Colleagues, students, and members of the community treasure her. Together with her late husband Istvan Ozsváth, a founding math professor of the University, they made their beautiful home in Richardson and the Ackerman Center a welcoming meeting place for visiting professors, scholars, students, and fellow Holocaust survivors from across the globe.

An Evening with Zsuzsi will also establish and endow the Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Research Fund to support graduate students in Holocaust Studies. The endowment will financially support graduate students as they conduct their original research in archives and libraries, and, to attend and present their research at conferences around the world.

More information about An Evening with Zsuzsi can be found at http://www.utdallas.edu/ackerman/an-evening-with-zsuzsi/
Paula Austell demystifies for us the UT Dallas presidential search process. Paula is the Director of Endowment Services and Past President of the Staff Council at the University of Texas at Dallas. She also served as the staff representative on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

The time-honored selection of a university president in the UT System is ultimately made by the Board of Regents, but it is largely facilitated by three important bodies. First is an outside, executive search firm—in this case, Russell Reynolds Associates. Second is a Presidential Search Advisory Committee composed of presidents of two other UT System institutions, as well as representatives of the Board of Regents, deans, faculty, staff/non-faculty, students, and the public. Third is we, the people. Anyone at all may nominate a candidate for president and may review the tapped candidate during the 21 days required from announcement to final appointment.

Nominations are first submitted to and vetted by the executive search firm. Qualified candidates are submitted to the search committee for interviews and review. A honed list of contenders is then submitted to the Board of Regents for further interviews and review before finalists are determined and a final selection is announced.

Dr. David Daniel's greatest legacy is our continuing success toward being a tier one institution. Now that the search is over, the Board of Regents has appointed Dr. Richard Benson as the next UTD president. He will finish the school year at Virginia Tech and then make his way here and begin his work as president on July 15th 2016. You can find his letter to the University on the UTD website.
Welcome
New Staff

Sirico, Marco  Electrical Engineering
Smiley, Sylvia  Electrical Engineering
Smith, Anne  Center for Brain Health
Sookdeo, Margaret  Management
Sorto, Cynthia  Diversity & Community Engagement
Steininger, Robert  Engineering and Innovation
Stiles, Addison  Computer Science
Straus, Daniel  ATEC
Tao, Congwu  OIR-EAS
Taylor II, Vincent  Facilities Management
Thapa, Om  Learning Technologies
Threadgill, Amber  Student Counseling Center
Tiller, Mark  Financial Aid
Tsiroupolou, Eirini  Computer Science
Valentine, Nicole  Student Health Center
Varner, Victor  Bioengineering
Villarreal, Edward  Development and Alumni Relations
Vornkahl, Tara  Management
Wagliardo, Nathan  Enrollment Services
Wakefield, Jonathan  University Police
Wang, Jian  Materials Science Engineering
Wang, Szu-Wei  Management
Washington, Genell  Callier Center - Education
Weekley, Jeff  Management
Weilbacher, Nicholas  Communications
Wells, Whitney  Career Center
Were, Lyndie  Procurement - Operating
Wrenn, Kristen  Records and Registration
Xavier, Lane  Athletics
Yasseen, Abdelazem  University Police
Young, Benisha  Student Success Center
Yousif, Ali  Chemistry
Zhang, Yulu  Management
Zheng, Zhong  Computer Science
Zhu, Yang  Mechanical Engineering

Carcamo, Cynthia  Callier Center
Castellano, Crystal  CBH Chapman
Catalano, Massimo  Materials Science
Cepica, Shannon  OIR
Coffia, Margaret  Facilities Management
Compton, Michael  Police
Conner, Terrence  Procurement - Operating
Connolly, Elise  UTD Dallas International Center
Coskun, Mustafa "Bulut"  Mechanical Engineering
Cradock, Kathryn  Biological Sciences
Cui, Mingjian  Mechanical Engineering
Dalmatoff, Ashley  Records and Registration
Danda, Vindhya Reddy  Bioengineering
Dant, Luis  Mechanical Engineering
Davis, Brandy  Institutional Equity & Compliance
DeLaRosa, Bambi  Center for Brain Health
Desmond, Andrea  Management
Dinh, Sonny Van  IR-EAS
Dourty, Brian  IR - AIS
Dragoo, Marcia "Heather"  Institutional Equity and Compliance
Dyckus, Brian  University Police
Ecker, Melanie  Materials Science and Engineering
Eddy, Teresa  Medical Devices
Edge, Butch  Athletics
Ervin, Andrea  Records & Registration
Eschler, Benjamin  CBH
Fadda, Dani  Mechanical Engineering
Feagans, Frank  IR-EAS
Feather, Sarah  University Library
Fekadu, Hannah  Callier Center - Education
Fineout, Ana  Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Finkelstein, Laura  Student Counseling
Fiore, Vincenzo  Center for Brain Health
Kalina, Kerri  Athletics
Kalyanasundaram, Roshni  Environmental Health and Safety
Kash, Faith  UT Dallas International Center
Keller, Kathryn  Student Counseling Center
Khemir, Sabia  Edith O'Donnell Institute
Kildyke, Eric  Engineering and Innovation
Kim, Bum-Kyum  Analog Center
Kim, Yeun Hee  Molecular and Cell Biology
Klement, Christopher  Research
Klesko, Joseph  Materials Science and Engineering

Acero Murillo, Alejandro  The Institute for Urban Policy Research
Akins, Emily  Arts and Humanities
Amberson, Sarah  Residential Life
Anderson, Natalie  Undergraduate Education
Atkins, Sarah  Student Counseling Center
Avida Avendano, Carlos Hugo  Materials Science and Engineering
Ayala, Hector  Communications
Bailey, Stacy  Procurement Management
Bange, Jonathan  Recreational Sports
Bao, Zhi-Qiang  Physics
Barney, Jacy  Student Development
Barragan Igelsias, Paulino  BBS
Batchelor, Benjamin  Chemistry
Beckmann, Ashleigh  Housing Operations
Bell, Katie  Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Bell, Trevor Scott  Receiving/Mail
Bellati, Melinda  Arts & Humanities
Bennett, Kevyn  Facilities Management
Bibelhausen, Sarah  Development and Alumni Relations
Black, Erica  Enrollment Services
Boland, Allyson  University Library
Bostanci, Emine  Electrical Engineering
Bow, Mackenzie University Police
Bowers, Demetric  Callier Center - Education
Braewell, Jianjun  Arts and Humanities
Brandenburg, Jonathan  Computer Science
Broadnax, Traxus  Auxiliary Services
Brown, Brandon  Arts and Humanities
Brown, Jazmyne  Enrollment Services
Bruno, Darius  Enrollment Services
Buchanan, Lucy  Development
Buxxamper, Adam  ATEC
Cadena, Anthony  Environmental Health and Safety
Campbell, Lindsay  Center for Brain Health
Jaffin, Dianna  Center for Brain Health
Jia, Chen*  Mathematical Sciences
Johnson, Armand  UT Dallas International Center
Johnson, Delaine  Student Health Center
Johnson, Emily  Arts and Humanities
Johnson, Jasmine  Diversity
Johnson, Lukas  Management
Jung, Jennifer  CBH
Kader, Amina  International Center

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Welcome
New Staff

Knowles, Odessa  Student Counseling Center
Ko, Alex  University Library
Kriegel, Jennifer  Center for Brain Health
Kularatne, Ruvini  Bioengineering
Lane, Mara  Research
Larison, Kristine  Edith O'Donnell Institute
Layton, Jane Ann  Human Resources
LeMoine, Amy  Callier Center - Education
Leu, Darwin  Enrollment Management
Lewis, Audrey  Financial Aid
Libby, Lee  Arts and Humanities / ECS
Lin, Kai-Chun "Kevin"  Bioengineering
Little, Isaiah  Management
Loehrlein, Chris Center for Vital Longevity
Lovato, Jenna  Career Center
Lozano Garcia, Rodolfo  Materials Science
Lozano, Courtney  Facilities Management
Fleming, Jared  Athletics
Frewin, Christopher  Bioengineering
Gaddy, Holly  Advancement / Communications
Galvez, Paul  Edith O'Donnell Institute
Gaspard, Shannon  Research
Giraldo, Jairo  Computer Science
Gomez, Rebeca  Procurement
Grant, Andrew  Enrollment Management
Gray, Daniel  Bioengineering
Griffin, Reuben  Budget - Operating
Griffin, Zaravia  Management
Gu, Qing  Electrical Engineering
Guerrero, Keith  JSOM
Guest, Taylor  Arts & Humanities
Hall, Glenn  Management
Hall, Larry  Procurement Management
Hamlin, Deborah  Office of Administration
Hammers, Joshua  Student Affairs
Harris, Markus  Finance and Budget Operating
Hatzopoulos, Alkis  Electrical Engineering
Hauck, Nedra  Center for Vital Longevity
He, Suchuan "Rita"  Strategic Planning and Analysis
Hefley, William  JSOM
Henry, Sarah  Management
Hernandez, Vicente  Receiving/Mail
Hibbard, Sonya  Enrollment Services
Hinton, Telisha  Engineering & Computer Science
Hogan, Sherice  Management
Hossain, Sharmin  Engineering & Computer Science
Perez, Dena  Office of Communications
Perez, Jaynal  OIR-AIS
Peterson, Wayne  IR-EAS
Petrolo, Giyandomenico  Mechanical Engineering
Posamentier, Michelle  Computer Science
Prashad, Shikha  Center for Brain Health
Primrose, Lisa  Student Engagement
Priyantha, Weerasinghe  Research
Pruitt, Azucena  Multicultural Center
Randle, Cameron  University Library
Rao, Neena  CBH-Filbey Lab
Rash, Ashley  Enrollment Management
Reynolds, Deborah  Procurement Management
Reynolds, Jacqueline  Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life
Reza, Summer  Budget and Finance
Rezazadeh, Siavash  Bioengineering
Richardson, Gregory  University Police
Rieck, Jennifer  Center for Vital Longevity
Ries, Laura  Records & Registration
Río, Holly  JSOM
Rocchi, Benedetto  Mechanical Engineering
Rodrigues de Souza, Rimenez  Texas Biomedical Engineering
Rodriguez Lopez, Ovidio  Materials Science
Rodriguez, James  Edith O'Donnell Institute
Roth, Siegmar  Nanotech
Rundle, Melissa  Center for Vital Longevity
Ruppin, Fabienne  Edith O'Donnell Institute
Ruppert, Michael  Mechanical Engineering
Saathoff, Cynthia  ECS Student Services
Sabbe, Kevin  Student Engagement
Sangston, Kenneth  Mechanical Engineering
Sanneh, Ebrima  Research
Saunders, Katrina  Edith O'Donnell Institute
Schiman, Jeff  Texas School Projects
Schiman, Jeffery  Texas School Projects
Schmidt, Austin  Texas Biomedical Device Center
Schrader, Erin  Student Counseling Center
Self, Tiffany  Callier Center Education
Shahdi, Armin  Research
Shrestha, Kalyan  Mechanical Engineering
Shugart, William  Enrollment Management
Simsek, Ahmet  JSOM
Hough, James  Management
Howell, Kimberly  Bioengineering
Hu, Zhen  Human Resources
Hu, Zhenxing  Mechanical Engineering
Ingram, Erin  Office of Communications
Jackson, Kassiopeia  Learning Technologies
Jacobs, Blaine  Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Lu, Wenyi  Math Department
Luckett, Nashotta  University Police
Madden, Laura  JSOM
Mahmood, Samsuddin  Chemistry
Mallory, Gina  Student Health Center
Martinez, Andrew  Facilities Management
Mattos, David  Student Health Center
May, Morgan  Management
Mayo, Nathaniel  Nanotech
McBride, Rachael  Arts and Humanities
McClain, Lisa  Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art and History
McGee, Ashley  Student Union
McKee, Dakota  Residential Life
McKinney, Glenda  Enrollment Services
McPhail, David  Chemistry
Mehr, Amit  Management
Melissa, Neil  OIR - TCS
Meter, Diana  Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Metz, Sara  Financial Aid
Milam, Kathleen  Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Miller, James  Management
Milligan, Amber  Center for Brain Health
Milligan, Amber  Center for Brain Health
Mills, Twyla  Callier Center
Misra, Divya  Communications
Modi, Romil  Medical Devices
Moreno, Nicole  Medical Devices
Murali, Vasanth  Biological Sciences
Nasir, Kamal  Management
Nielsen, Christina  ATEC
Oh, Young Jun  Materials Science and Engineering
Osborn, Allison  University Library
Oung, Scott  OIR-NTS
Packer, Courtney  ECS
Paksoy, Lela  Research
Paredes, Jacqueline  Management
Paret, Evan  Facilities Management
Parsoneault, Catherine  Arts and Humanities
Pena, Rafael  Facilities Management
Perez, Dena  Office of Communications