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On the Cover:
Nora Hernandez BA’99, MPA’10 and David Taylor received the UT System Regents’ Outstanding Employee Award, which recognizes full-time, non-faculty employees based on the impact they have made on their job and their institution.

Correction
In the Fall 2017 edition of *The Sun*, a photo from a sunrise yoga event was incorrectly attributed. UTD UREC was the sponsor of the event. We regret this error.

Officers:
Naomi Emmett | President
Melissa Wyder | Vice President
Paula Austell | Past President
Jamie Abrams | Secretary and Treasurer
Lynn Butler | Chairperson, Staff Development Committee
Paul Bottoni | Chairperson, Communications Committee
Debbie Greszler | Chairperson, Benefits Committee
David Richardson | Chairperson, Fundraising Committee

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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 UT Dallas.

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 University community and, in particular, to members of the 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.
Editor's Note: This story originally appeared in News Center. It has been edited for length.

Two employees from The University of Texas at Dallas have been selected as recipients of the new UT System Regents’ Outstanding Employee Award.

Nora Hernandez BA’99, MPA’10, graduate advisor in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, and David Taylor, lab manager in the Department of Physics in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, were selected for their outstanding performance, innovation, enthusiasm and dedication.

They are among 30 winners from across all 14 UT System institutions. Each will receive $10,000, a chancellor’s challenge coin, a certificate and an invitation to a luncheon hosted by UT System Chancellor William H. McRaven and the Board of Regents in Austin.

The award was established to recognize full-time, non-faculty employees based on the impact they have made on their job and their institution. A selection committee reviewed nominees for superior performance, outstanding customer service, acts that enhance the image of the institution and/or community outreach.

Hernandez has been an undergraduate and graduate academic advisor at UTD for 13 years. She set up the master’s student advising program at the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, and works with more than 270 graduate students in seven disciplines who come to her for curriculum and career advice.

Hernandez also serves as the Fast Track program coordinator, the point of contact for academically qualified undergrads who are interested in taking graduate-level courses.

In fall 2013, she began working on a PhD in public affairs. Being a graduate student has helped her advising career, Hernandez said.

“Anyone can tell you what courses to take — the catalog is right there. It’s about taking the time to give them encouragement and help them through obstacles,” she said.

Taylor has been with UTD for eight years, putting his physics degree and experience as a machinist and toolmaker to work as he maintains and repairs lab equipment in research and teaching labs.

“I’m the toy master — and physicists have the best toys,” Taylor said. “I always enjoyed making things.”

His willingness to tinker with designs and his knack for making equipment work better — including redesigning a friction mechanics lab and improving lecture demonstrations — drew praise from those who nominated him for the award.

Taylor even took on the commitment of helping a capstone student team by mentoring them and leveraging his hands-on skills to guide the team through the manufacturing phase of their design project.

Despite the impact he’s had on the campus community, Taylor said he was still surprised to be among the inaugural recipients of the Regents’ Outstanding Employee Award.

“Mostly work alone, and usually people don’t realize what you do. It was a pleasant surprise. It’s created an opportunity for people to express appreciation. I’ve had a lot of personal affirmation and congratulations.”
President Richard C. Benson presented the Celebrate Achievement and Reward Excellence Awards — or CARE Awards — established by the Staff Council to honor staff members whose commitment to quality work serves the University’s mission.

The fall’s recipients — pictured above — were Mac Siner, Monica Williamson, Michele Brown, Chaz Lilly, Morgan Shockey and Celeste Burnett. They are pictured with Benson (right) and Naomi Emmett, Staff Council president (left).

The spring recipients, pictured with Emmett (left) and Benson (right), were Barbara Boyd, Cristian Perez, Daniel Calhoun, Molly Dickinson, Julieta Terry and Kerry Tate.

Faculty, staff, students, visitors and customers may nominate staff for the honor. The deadline for the fall 2018 awards is October 31.
Staff Member Recipe:

Chicken Casserole

By Lynn Butler
Administrative Services Officer
Student Success Center

Step One:
Spray 9” x 13 “ dish with cooking spray.

Step Two:
Mix soups, Rotel and broth together.

Step Three:
Place layer of chicken on bottom of pan then Layer tortillas onions & cheese over chicken.

Step Four:
Cover with soup mixture.

Step Five:
Repeat layering, ending with cheese on top.

Step Six:
Cook at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Ingredients:
- 12 corn tortillas
- 4 cups of diced cooked chicken
- 1 cup of chopped onion
- 1 can of Rotel
- 1 can of cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can of cream of chicken soup
- 1 can of chicken broth
- 2 lbs of Velveeta cheese

Notes:
This recipe serves eight people.
The campus community celebrated the seventh annual UT Dallas Earth Week during April.

Thanks to the Office of Student Volunteerism, the Office of Sustainability and the assistance of a bevy of partners, it was a week filled with interactive and educational events supporting sustainability and environmental practices.

Volunteers were encouraged to sign up for gardening workshops for the opportunity to get their hands dirty and contribute to UTD’s community garden. Plant facts and best gardening practices were shared while students, staff and community members harvested fresh produce. Many volunteers left with the fruits of their labor or seeds to start their own gardens at home.

Another engaging activity, Operation Upcycle, encouraged participants to upcycle donated denim jeans to create shoes for children in Uganda. All denim pieces were donated to Sole Hope.

During the Sustainability in Research Panel Discussion, UTD professors and John Bunker Sands Wetland Center representatives shared their research and perspectives on the importance of sustainability relating to student engagement.

The height of excitement was the celebration of Earth Day with the campus Earth Fair. The fair featured booths representing student organizations, campus departments, and community agencies. Fairgoers enjoyed a day of music, swag, and the best in green entertainment.

Earth week rounded out its engagement with the Butterfly Flutterby to help maintain our local monarch waystation on campus.

Volunteers assisted with planting, sowing seeds, and weeding in an effort to restore habitats used by monarch butterflies in their annual migration. A beautiful and transformative cause indeed.

Thank you to all partners and participants that made Earth Week a success!
UT Dallas Hosts Author of *Hidden Figures*

By Renee Stone  
District 2 Representative

UTD’s Office of Development and Alumni Relations presented Margot Lee Shetterly, author of *Hidden Figures* and founder of the Human Computer Project, as part of their Distinguished Lecture series in February. The lecture was sponsored by Texas Instruments.

Shetterly's father was an atmospheric scientist at NASA’s Langley Research Center and her mother was a professor of English at Hampton University.

Perhaps this led her to writing about scientists and female mathematicians also known as “human computers” of the 1950s and 1960s.

Shetterly provided the audience in the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building lecture hall with an opportunity to hear a different perspective about women whom she referred to as the unsung heroes of race, gender, science and innovation.

These women worked their way from being seen as human computers into engineering jobs typically held by men, playing key roles in breaking gender barriers of the time.

Shetterly was well received by her audience of 823. According to metrics provided by Deborah Day of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, 90 percent of the audience was female.

As the number of women in the workforce continues to increase, they share employment in occupations typically held by men.

It is anticipated *Hidden Figures* will encourage girls to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics and continue to break barriers in these fields.
The Phish Bowl is a resource for faculty, staff and students to avoid becoming victims of phishing scams. Phishing message scams that have been reported to the Information Security Office include subjects such as “upgrade email,” “package postcards,” “action required,” “FEDEX order,” “server upgrade complete,” “migrate Outlook,” “urgent notice,” and “email account lockout.”

When hackers gain access to your personal email account, they may send fake emails to you and your friends trying to entice you to open the link or give away personal information.

Spoofing is another method of phishing whereby a malicious outsider impersonates a legitimate resource like a website or email contact. Voice communications sent over an internet connection rather than a phone line or cell tower can be manipulated by Spoofers. The outbound caller ID is changed to reflect a desired display name or number on the caller ID feature often masquerading as banks, creditors, insurance companies, or even the government. Use caution when responding to any request for personal identifying information even if the number feels familiar.

If you have received any of these types of messages or an email you feel is a phishing scam, do not reply or click the link(s) in the message. Forward it as an attachment to the Information Security Office at infosecurity@utdallas.edu by clicking on the “more” tab within the message screen, scrolling down and clicking on forward as attachment option. This is so the email headers may be analyzed.

The Information Security Office may also be reached by calling 972-883-6810 or https://www.utdallas.edu/infosecurity; https://www.facebook.com/UTDInfoSec.
Staff Appreciation Events
Welcome, New UT Dallas Employees!

Nilesh Agalave  
Research Associate  
School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Jesus Alcantar-Pena  
Research Associate  
Materials Science Engineering

Jennifer Alsbury  
Administrative Assistant I  
Materials Science & Engineering

Hannah Barling  
Social Media Specialist  
Naveen Jindal School of Management

Lucia Barron  
Finance Operations Coordinator  
Office of Budget & Finance

Christine Benner  
Manager, Career Services  
Naveen Jindal School of Management

Pulin Bhatt  
Director, Client Services  
Office of Information Technology

Rita Bhui  
Research Associate  
Bioengineering

Bethany Bingham  
Career Consultant  
Career Center

Riya Bose  
Research Associate  
Physics
Kamin Bouguyon  
Programmer Analyst I  
Center for Brain Health

Trunnis Brandon  
Equity Investigator  
Institutional Equity Compliance

Andrea Burdman  
Senior Academic Support Coordinator  
Naveen Jindal School of Management

Eva Burnett  
Director of Budget & Resource Planning  
Director of Budget & Resource Planning

Jim Burton  
Programmer Analyst II  
Strategic Planning & Analysis

Brandy Cannon  
Financial Analyst  
OIT

Jessica Caolo  
Senior Associate Director Career Services  
Career Center

Denise Cason  
Assistant Director, MBA Program  
Management

John Chapman  
Web Software Developer  
Research

Jason Cirilo  
Career Development Specialist  
Management

Jasmine Clark  
Administrative Assistant I  
Office of Research

Gary Cocke  
Associate Director Energy Conservation & Sustainability  
Facilities Management

Erica Conkle  
Information Services Specialist I  
Enrollment Management

Aaron Cummings  
Learning Specialist II  
Management

Genevieve Darrouzet  
Development Data Associate  
Development & Alumni Relations

Breajna Dawkins  
Administrative Assistant I  
ECS Student Services

Sheri Dillard  
Testing Center Specialist  
Learning Technologies

Nicholas Disiere  
Application Administrator I  
Office of Information Technology

Le Do  
Accountant I  
Center for Brain Health

Suresh Donga  
Database Administrator III  
Office of Information Technology

James Dormer Research  
Engineer / Scientist Associate II  
Bioengineering

Erin Dougherty  
Director of Development,  
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences  
Development & Alumni Relations

Sandra Dunlap  
Testing Center Associate  
Learning Technologies

Hazen Eckert  
Mathematical Sciences

Baowei Fei  
Professor  
Bioengineering

Justin Felder  
Research Associate  
Chemistry
Lacy Fenn
Manager IT
OIT

Emilio Flores
Animal Technician I
Research

Elida Garcia
Patient Account Specialist
Callier Center - Richardson

Danyelle Gates
Administrative Assistant I
Communications

Salehin Ghani
Systems Engineer II
OIT

Laura Goldstein
Learning Specialist III
Student Success Center

Eric Green
Career Consultant
Career Center

Garyn Gulbranson
Psychologist I
Student Counseling

Ashley Guzman
Secretary I
Management

Rodney Haigh
Police Officer
University Police

Kimberly Hall
Academic Support Coordinator
Management

Ryan Hammonds
Research Assistant I
Center for Brain Health

Farhana Haque
Enrollment Service Processor I
Enrollment Services

Chris Hawkins
Research Assistant I
Center for Vital Longevity

Herbert Hayes
Clinician
Center for Brain Health

Crystal Hexamer
Administrative Assistant II
Career Center

Alnetta Hill
Child Development Associate
Callier Center

Corrie Hill
Softball Coach
Athletics

Amy Hoang
Payroll Specialist
Payroll - Operating

Michael Hoberer
Utilities Station Operator II
Research Dept

Serena Hodge
Program Specialist I
Student Success Center

Stephanie Hoefken
Director of Marketing and Communications
Center for Brain Health

Jasmine Holloman
Records Officer II
Records & Registration

Rhea Horton
Career Consultant
Career Center

Hanh Hua
Project Manager
Facilities Management

Albert Huang
Library Assistant III
University Library
Karthik Hullahalli
Classified Temporary
Biological Sciences

Angelica Iraheta
Academic Advisor II
NSM Deans Office

Gordon Irvine
Research Associate
Chemistry

Sara Jahanziri
Secretary III
Management

Royce Jones
Career Development Specialist
Management

Joonwhi Joo
Open-Rank Faculty
JSOM

Erin Jordan
Administrative Project Coordinator I
Contract Administration-Operating

Shawn Joseph
Classified Temporary
Office of Information Technology

Dae Kang
HVAC Commercial Technician
Research

Matthew Kelly
Management

Jiana Khazma
Development Associate,
Callier
Development & Alumni Relations

Shawn Kilbury
Director
Enrollment Management

Barbara Kirby
Academic Advisor III
Undergraduate Education

Latoya Knight
Building Attendant II
Housing Operations

Alan Knox
Career Consultant
Career Center

Nancy Kress
Senior Librarian
University Library
Moeno Kume  
Lab Technician / Research Assistant  
Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Meredith (Leigh) Kunz  
Legal Assistant  
Office of Administration

Darren Ladner  
Web Software Developer  
Center for Brain Health

Linh Lazarus  
Research Assistant I  
Center for Vital Longevity

Jenna Lebron  
Administrative Assistant I  
Administrative Assistant I

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Electrical and Computer Engineering

Teresa Leka  
Secretary III  
Center for Brain Health

Patrick LeMoine  
Maintenance Worker III  
Facilities Management

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Mechanical Engineering

Danielle Lissberger  
Grants and Contracts Specialist II  
Research

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Enrollment Management

Briseida Luna  
Administrative Assistant II  
OIT

Brady Lundberg  
Parking Assistant  
Auxiliary Services

Mohammad Mahdavi  
Research Associate  
Mechanical Engineering

Martha Mancera  
Building Attendant II  
Facilities Management

Francis Mariaraj  
Research Associate  
Chemistry
Rosaura Marroquin
Administrative Assistant II
Electrical and Computer Engineering

Alma Martell
Academic Advisor II
Management

Phung Martin
Librarian
University Library

Bianca Mason
Research Associate
Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Ana-Maria Mata-Otero
Research Scientist
Behavioral And Brain Sciences

Marjorie McDonald
Graduate Program Administrator
EPPS

Lydia McInis
Animal Technician I
Research

Kelsey Middleton
Safety Specialist II
Research

Noorali Mohammed
Manager, Client Services
Office of Information Technology

Bree Moody
Administrative Assistant II
Development & Alumni Relations

Stephan Moore
Plumber II
Facilities Management

Nicole Morris
Library Assistant III
University Library

Dhruv Narayanan
Center for Engineering Innovation

Sneha Narvekar
Research Scientist
Biological Sciences

Shweta Nayak
Administrative Assistant II
Research

Akanksha Nayyar
Financial Accountant
Accounting and Financial Reporting

Lindsey Noble
Research Associate
Behavioral And Brain Sciences

Daniel Nunez
Groundskeeper II
Facilities Management

Melanie O’Brien
Assistant Director of Corporate Relations
Development & Alumni Relations

Lisa O’Connor
Administrative Coordinator
Center for Vital Longevity

Selena Ollervides
Library Assistant III
University Library

Euclid Parker
Building Attendant II
Housing Operation

Max Parker
IT Support Specialist I
Office of Information Technology

Deborah Pearson
Administrative Assistant I
Research

Jerry Perez
Director, Cyber Infrastructure Operations
Office of Information Technology

Christopher Pham
Research Assistant II
Materials Science Engineering
Lashanda Phillips
Testing Center Specialist
Learning Technologies

Jacqueline Polk
Career Consultant
Career Center

J Prado
Building Attendant II
Facilities Management

Ved Prakash
Research Imaging Specialist
Research

Lena Price
Assistant Director of Foundation Relations
Development & Alumni Relations

Donald Proeschel
Director of Corporate Relations
ECS

Elizabeth Ranieri
Research Coordinator - Naples
EOD Institute for Art History

Debbie Riedner
Administrative Assistant I
Research

Ronald Rihoo
Mobile Application Developer
OIT

Katie Robinson
Librarian
University Library

Michael Robinson
Software Systems Specialist I
Management

Michelle Rock
Speech Language Pathologist
Callier Center

Petra Rodgers
Animal Technician I
Research Dept

Caitlin Rogers
Temporary Benefits Eligible
Management

Kalli Ross
Research Assistant II
Center for Brain Health

McKenzie Russell Gregory
Communications Coordinator
Center for Brain Health

Kenton Seaver
Director
Management

Maysam Shahedi Bagh Khandan
Research Associate
Bioengineering

Andrea Shepherd
Front Desk Assistant
Housing Operations

Christopher Simmons
Director, Cyber Infrastructure Researcher Support
Office of Information Technology

Kelsey Simoni
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Tonya Singleton
Medical Assistant
Student Health Center

Sally Skow
Senior Customer Service Assistant
Facilities Management

Tana Smith
Student Financial Aid Officer III
Financial Aid

Cameron Sprock
Assistant Director of Corporate Relations
Development & Alumni Relations

Anthony Stulsky
Utilities Station Operator
Facilities Management

16
LaTicia Subair
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Allison Valenzuela
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Edwin Van Der Vlist
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Silas Vieira
Application Administrator I
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Qian Wang
Software Systems Specialist IV
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Yuxuan Wang
Research Associate
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Hannah Warren
Research Assistant I
Center for Vital Longevity

J Waters
Research Assistant I
Center for Brain Health

Brittnee Weed
Library Assistant III
University Library

Christopher Wendy
Senior Institutional Research Associate
Strategic Planning & Analysis

Tamara West
Administrative Project Coordinator I
Residential Life

Stephen White
Senior Director of Operations
Brain Performance Institute

Joan Wickersheim
Assistant Director Lab Safety
Research

Jennifer Wilk
Master Clinician - Audiologist
Callier Center

Daniella Wilson
Administrative Assistant I
Arts and Humanities

Joseph Wilson
Director of Web Services
Communications

Jourdan Woolems
Secretary I
Management

Wilton Wright
Enrollment Services Advisor I
Enrollment Services

Hejian Xiong
Research Associate
Mechanical Engineering

Wei Zhou
Research Associate
Lithospheric Studies
In Memoriam

Nelda Magnuson

Nelda Magnuson, a beloved employee in the Office of Information Technology (OIT) for 12 years, died on Sept. 11 at the age of 56.

Magnuson's UT Dallas career path started in 2005 as an administrative assistant and ran until earlier this year, when she retired from her business manager role. Her dedication and support was felt throughout the department.

Debbie Greszler, a manager in Information Technology who worked with Magnuson throughout her time at UTD said: “Nelda was a part of the UT Dallas family in a unique way, as her mother, aunt, niece, son and brother were also employees of the University. Those of us that worked with her fondly remember how she took care of us in a way that truly reflected her love for her fellow staff members and the University. She treated us like we were part of her family.”

Greszler also emphasized the devotion Magnuson displayed towards the department and the University, even while dealing with severe health issues that spanned much of her tenure at UT Dallas, ultimately leading her to retire in April 2017.

Cameron Randle

Colleagues at the Eugene McDermott Library and across The University of Texas at Dallas are mourning the loss of the library’s extended hours supervisor, Cameron Randle, who died early Thanksgiving morning.

An avid cyclist, Randle was hit by a car while riding his bike. He was 33.

Randle began working at the McDermott Library as a library assistant in fall 2015, and was later promoted to supervisor.

Dr. Ellen Safley, dean of the McDermott Library, said: “Cameron was a valued member of our team, and we are trying to cope with this senseless death. Our thoughts are with his family and friends who have suffered a great loss. We will remember his professionalism and his kind and generous personality and his great smile.”

Rion Morgan BS’08

Morgan, who completed a degree in business administration, had worked for the University since 2006.

Honored as a star employee, he was manager of the Help Desk operations for the UT Dallas Office of Information Technology.

Morgan's friends speak fondly of his affinity for video games and pop culture, as well as his love of outdoor adventures.