

November 2015 DSA Newsletter

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Message from Dr. With

Happy fall semester, everyone!

While it seems as though the semester has gone by in a flash, it has also been coupled with steady hustle and bustle of continuous workflow. From welcoming our large freshman class or organizing an early Homecoming season to undertaking the large feat of preparing and moving to our new Union, I'm not sure we've had a chance to reflect on the amazing work that has been accomplished so far.

The number of new freshman we have on campus this fall is 4,465 which makes our largest freshman class yet (as of the twelfth class day). And as exciting as 37,231 total students sounds, this also means we have our work cut out for us in terms of finding ways to reach each students, understand their needs, and serve them in the best ways we can. If this sounds like something you already do, you're exactly right. Staying up to date with trends and professional development, data gathering through meaningful assessment, and

making bold changes that reflect the ever-changing needs of our students all contribute to our purpose and goal of serving students and keeping them at the center of all we do.

I can't say enough about our new Union. I love walking through it; I love seeing students swarm every inch of it in awe. The fact that years of student driven committee work has shaped the physical structure that students are now exploring to find programs, services, collaborative spaces, study spots, social gatherings, and of course, assorted food options, is just heartwarming. I can only imagine what the full-swing operations will look like in the spring. If you haven't thanked a Union employee this week, I encourage it.

To keep you updated on a few campus-wide updates, I would like to mention progress of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Campus Carry Task Force, and President's Planning Implementation Teams:

- QEP - We are well into year zero of our QEP proposal, Career Connect, which will promote Critical Thinking, Communication, and Teamwork as key goals. Current program submissions include Non-Credit Internships, Alternative Service Breaks, UNT Serves, International Studies Abroad ELAP Program, and PACS Fall Forum. If you have additional submissions, reach out to Dan.Naegeli@unt.edu as soon as possible.
- Campus Carry Task Force - Senate Bill 11 has prompted the creation of a campus wide task force comprised of students, faculty, staff, and administrators. This group was appointed in September, held Town Halls during October to gather community input and concerns, and will be sharing recommendations with President Smatresk in December. The Board of Regents will be reviewing drafted policy and implement in February, 2016. To keep up with updates from this task force, visit: <http://campuscarry.unt.edu/>.
- Planning Implementation Teams - To stay on track with the top priorities identified at the President's Planning and Implementation Workshop, four teams have been created and assigned cabinet members who will be accountable for the progress of each team's goals.
 - Academic Implementation Team - Finley Graves, Elizabeth With
 - Research Implementation team - Tom McCoy
 - Operations and Infrastructure Implementation team - Bob Brown

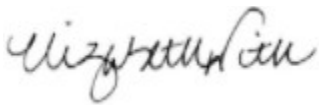
- Enrollment Management Implementation team - Shannon Goodman

We have just one month before the end of our fall term and arrival of the holiday season. I hope to see you all at the Division Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 15th from 11am - 1pm in the Gateway Ballroom where we will be unveiling our new Principles of Good Practice and Values for the Division.

As always, please utilize the [Employee Suggestions form](#) if you would like to submit feedback of any kind.

Thanks for all you do,

Elizabeth



Recognizing Excellent Staff Members

Do you know a staff member who goes above and beyond the call of duty to make UNT a great place to work and learn?

If so, now is the time to nominate your deserving colleagues for a [Staff Appreciation Award](#) to recognize their excellence and dedication to UNT. [The nomination deadline for 2016 awards is November 30.](#)

Our staff members embody the best of UNT, and each Staff Appreciation Award honors the excellence and outstanding qualities of those nominated for recognition. Honorees can be nominated in six award categories to receive an engraved award and a taxable cash award. The following awards will be presented at the Annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon on March 30, 2016 during [Staff Appreciation Month](#):

- [Steve Miller Outstanding Employee Award](#) - \$2,000 and an engraved award for a staff member who has positively impacted their division or department and the university. This is the highest honor a UNT staff

member can receive. Up to four employees per year can be honored in this category.

- [UNT Spirit Award](#) - \$1,000 and an engraved award for a staff member who constantly shows pride in being part of the UNT community. Up to two employees per year can be honored in this category.
- [Student Success Award](#) - \$1,000 and an engraved award for a staff member who does more than their jobs require to ensure students succeed. Up to three employees per year can be honored in this category.
- [Customer Service Award](#) - \$1,000 and an engraved award for a staff member who excels at meeting customers' needs and provides excellent service. Up to three employees per year can be honored in this category.
- [Diversity Award](#) - \$1,000 and an engraved award for a staff member who helps to create a diverse, respectful, and inclusive workplace. Up to three employees per year can be honored in this category.
- [Rising Star Award](#) - \$500 and an engraved award for a staff member who has served the university between six months and two years and who shows a passion for his or her work, UNT, and UNT traditions. One employee per year is honored in this category.

You can find nomination forms and more specific rules for each award on the [Staff Appreciation Awards website](#).



Homecoming 2015: "Forever Mean Green: A Journey Through Time"

Over 11,000 students, faculty, and staff attended Homecoming events this year, from dressing up for Spirit Day, to running in the 5k Fun Run. To all of the departments who participated in tailgate and attended the game, thank you for supporting the Mean Green! Our 2015 Homecoming King and Queen are Trevon Smith and Whitley Green, pictured above with President Smatresk and Dr. With. For a full list of Homecoming Winners, visit the [homecoming website](#).

We Mean Green Fund: Green Ideas Wanted

Do you have an idea that could help UNT become more sustainable? Do you know how UNT could reduce its impact on the environment by conserving water, saving energy, reducing waste, or minimizing carbon emissions? The We Mean Green Fund accepts ideas from students, faculty, and staff that make our campus even greener, and it could provide the funding to make your idea a reality! Submit your idea by filling out the Expression of Interest Form [here](#).



The Best Is Yet To Be

On December 11, the Student Money Management Team will be saying farewell to its longest serving peer mentor - Kaneisha Brackens. Kaneisha joined Team SMMC her first freshman semester and has continued to work at the center for her entire UNT experience. Throughout the years, Kaneisha took on additional responsibilities and leadership opportunities, including being named the center's senior mentor in Summer 2014. Kaneisha is an Emerald Eagle and is graduating with honors. She is a double major in Finance and Recreation, Event & Sport Management with a minor in Criminal Justice. Kaneisha will be moving to Dallas after she graduates and is looking forward to catching up on her sleep!

SMMC Fall Loan Cycle Closes

The Fall 2015 cycle of the SMMC loan programs closed on November 3. At this time any students interested in applying for any of the center's loan programs must meet with an SMMC loan program team member. The Spring 2016 loan cycle opens on November 9. Students interested in applying for spring loans

must be enrolled in Spring 2016 and meet all other eligibility requirements. For more information visit the [SMMC Loan Programs website](#).



Kerr Cafeteria celebrates local vendors with Food Day Event

by Kevin Hosey, UNT Dining Services Marketing Director

UNT Dining Services prides itself on providing made-from scratch food prepared with fresh ingredients and produce from local sources. To help celebrate that fact, the team at Kerr Cafeteria hosted Kerr Food Day on Thursday, Oct. 22. The very special event featured chef demonstrations, live music from Isaac Brown, and several tables where local vendors showed off their wares and offered samples.

Food Day also features a unique "150-mile" menu. Diners enjoyed delicious cuisine from suppliers in Denton and surrounding areas. The menu included Pork Loin of Eden with Poached Cornucopia, Vegan Butterbut Squash Pizza with feta and granny smith apples, and Rootin-Tootin Texas Root Vegetables. Then they topped it all off with homemade ice cream made with Beets, Honey, and Lavender.

The event was a huge success and visitors had a terrific time. To learn about other special upcoming events at the UNT cafeterias and retail locations, visit us on facebook or on our website.



Victoria Maher, Jason Acheampong, and Maegan Adams represented the Career Center Peer Advisors at the Etiquette Dinner on October 28, 2015.

Career Peer Advisors

by Richard-Michael Calzada, Peer Advisor Lead Graduate Assistant

It's a job title that invokes a sense of great responsibility, initiative, and leadership. They're student workers - and more. They represent the career center, carrying out our mission to provide life-long career services to UNT students, alumni, and faculty. They are integral to the link between student and staff, education and career.

Fall 2015 has been a semester of new initiatives for the career center peer advisors. To read about their new Career Services Programs, visit the [Career Center's website](#).

We would love to hear from you!

We are always looking for new stories and feedback. If you have anything to share, please use the links below.

Newsletters will be sent out on a monthly basis on the first Friday of every

month, starting **January 8, 2016**. Stories, announcements, and pictures will be due the Monday previous.

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