Dear students,

Hi! On behalf of all the student representatives on the Student InterCouncil (SIC), welcome to a new academic year at UTHealth! As our health university grows in the heart of the largest medical center in the world, students will continue to have access to unparalleled faculty, cutting-edge innovation, and an overall remarkable academic experience. You, as a UTHealth student, have the unique opportunity to take part in a diverse student body. Not only are your peers pursuing degrees from six different professional schools, but they also represent different backgrounds, ethnicities, age groups, and insights. Student life is the soul of our university. I encourage you to explore and exchange ideas with this wonderfully varied community of visionaries and do-ers.

Whether you are brand new to our university or an old pro at navigating TMC traffic, we invite you to find out more about SIC, your university student governance. Made up of student leaders from all six schools of UTHealth, SIC strives to connect all six schools socially & academically, be the voice of the student body to both faculty and staff, and work with UTHealth administration to advance student-based initiatives.

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Upcoming Events

Keep on the lookout for the SIC Olympics slated for this November. Get your teams together for this event that is sure to get the whole UTHealth community together!

Mark your calendar for the annual SIC Crawfish Boil on April 7, 2017! The event is scheduled from 4:30 to 7 pm and is open fo all UTHealth students and one guest.

Keep up with SIC by following us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UTHealth.SIC or by visiting the SIC Webstie: www.uth.edu/SIC.
Gov. Greg Abbott has appointed Haley Rader DeLaGarza, B.S.N., R.N., a nurse anesthesia doctoral student at UTHealth, as the student representative to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

Each year, 10 student regents and a student representative are appointed to their respective universities for terms effective on June 1.

During a one-year term, DeLaGarza will provide information to the board from a student perspective.

“As the holder of two academic degrees from University of Texas System institutions and several years of I.C.U. nursing experience, I know that Haley will bring invaluable insights and much energy to her important role with the THECB,” said UTHealth School of Nursing Dean Lorraine Frazier, Ph.D., R.N.”

“I am really excited to have the opportunity to serve higher education in Texas,” said DeLaGarza. “I plan to serve my fellow college students by fostering open communication with the board on policy issues and decisions that affect students’ lives.”

After earning her Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nurse Anesthesia, DeLaGarza plans to pursue a joint role in education and clinical practice to help increase educational opportunities and improve health care delivery systems.

“I love the art and science of anesthesia and nursing,” DeLaGarza said. “I also find great joy in helping other people achieve their goals through education.”

Welcome Student Regent Joseph to Houston for a visit to UTHealth

Varun Pokkamthanam Joseph was appointed regent of the University of Texas System on June 1, 2016 by Governor Greg Abbott. Regent Joseph is a fourth year dental student at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and is president of the dentistry class of 2017. Regent Joseph is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, earning both bachelor's and master's degrees. Regent Joseph is a native of McKinney, Texas and will have the opportunity to travel around the state to each of the UT System schools during this one year term. He will take these opportunities to get a sense of student life and concerns at each school. This year, we have the privilege of hosting Regent Joseph during Salutation, the tradition of welcoming back students from all six UTHealth schools.

Throughout the year, we host multiple social events for all students to enjoy. We also offer student scholarships, organization funding, and community service opportunities. Each elected SIC representative is honored to serve our fellow students and passionate about advocating for you! So come visit us at the Salutation SIC booth, or any of our numerous all-student events this year, and say hi to us if you see us on campus!

Join your student government in making UTHealth the best university for its students! Feel free to contact the SIC via email at sicgov@uth.tmc.edu. Stay updated via our emails, Facebook and our website (www.uth.edu/sic).

Warmest regards,
Margaret Wang
Third Year at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Student InterCouncil President 2016-2017
Hi Fellow UTHealth Students!

Putting together the Salutation edition of the Student Pulse is an exciting thing! For one thing, I am a brand new SIC member, which means I am learning about how the SIC goes about participating in the governance of UTHealth. We have begun this year with enthusiasm for so many things that will improve and enrich student life and planning is well underway. SIC is your system wide student governance organization and, as such, we have the privilege of learning about each institution. As a group, we want to know what the concerns of the student body are on a large scale and how we can make a difference.

Many of the exciting things we, as the Student InterCouncil, are working on began long before August. This year, we are working hard to improve student life outside of the classroom by hosting and supporting new events as well as improving events that have proven to be fun traditions. I am particularly excited about the SIC Olympics, which should encourage healthy competition and provide a place to meet new friends from other schools. We are also looking into ways to step out into the community around us and provide an opportunity for everyone to use their time and talents to great things outside of our responsibilities as students. I recently attended an Interfaculty Council meeting and we are very excited to once again be partnering to provide the T.F. Burks Scholarship to students from any of the six UTHealth schools. The SIC also offers scholarships that you should definitely keep in mind. This past month, two SIC members, Alix and Mason, traveled to Austin to represent the student body of UTHealth at the UT System Student Advisory Council. Initiatives to readdress maternity and paternity leave for students as well as initiatives to improve student wellness and mental health are of particular interest. The one thing I want all students to remember, is that we are here to represent you! Contact us on facebook or by emailing sicgov@uth.tmc.edu to let us know how we can best to that.

All the best,
Brittany Ellis Jewell
Second Year PhD Student, GSBS
SIC Historian

2016 SIC Representatives

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
- Alem Belachew
- Michael McGuire
- Robert Williams

School of Biomedical Informatics
- Pratik Kumar Chaudhary
- Jingcheng Du
- Swati Goyal

School of Dentistry
- Mirian Chen, Vice-President
- Mason Borth
- Brandon McCullough

McGovern Medical School
- Alix Baycroft, Secretary
- Margaret Wang, President
- Gina Duong

School of Public Health
- Connor Cordray
- Palak Jalan
- Katie Oetken

International Student Representatives
- Smruthi Vijayaraghavan, Treasurer, GSBS
- Sunil Acharya, GSBS
- Pritul Patel, SPH

Underrepresented Student Representatives
- Brittany Jewell, Historian, GSBS
- Jacquelyn Randle, MMS
- Angelina Williams, SPH