Brown Bag Gets Great Reviews

In January, UCSC’s staff development committee, headed by JR Bright, offered a brown bag with Vicky Esse, of Human Resources. The topic, “Building Success through Skill Development”. It focused on development tools to help build your career path. This session was delivered face-to-face AND offered to other campuses via ITV! It was very well received, and we’ve gotten plenty of requests for the powerpoint, which is now online on the UCSC website (http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ucsc). Want more? Want this presentation again? Contact your UCSC representative and let them know.

UCSC Representative Elected as UT System EAC Chair

Dennie Clemons, network support specialist in the Office of Telecommunications for Information Technology, has been elected chair of The University of Texas System Employee Advisory Council (EAC). This accomplishment comes with substantial responsibility and is a considerable honor for both Clemons and UTHealth. Clemons is only the second UTHealth employee to serve in this role (2004 Randolph Scott, now retired).

The EAC was established by the UT System Board of Regents in 2000 as a vehicle for communication among staff (both classified and A&P), the Board of Regents, the component institutions and executive officers of UT System administration. Members work with, and on behalf of, employees of all 16 components and UT System administration.

Clemons has worked at UTHealth for more than 24 years, she has been active on the University Classified Staff Council (UCSC) since 2004 and participated in many university-wide events, including Fun Fest, STAR Awards, Committee on the Status of Women Clothing Drive, the annual Houston Food Bank Drive and as co-chair of UT House Medics for 18 years. In 2005, she was awarded UTHealth Volunteer of the Year.

Clemons has been a member of the EAC for six years and held positions as vice chair and secretary. She was also chair of the Wellness ad hoc committee for two years. As an officer, she has gone before the Board of Regents twice and will again, as chair, in November 2013.

Congratulations to Dennie and to UTHealth. If you see her, let her know we are proud of her.
I sat down recently with Dr. Carmel Dyer for a short interview. Dr. Dyer is the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Chair in Gerontology and Professor and Director of the Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine at the Medical School, Executive Director of the Consortium on Aging, Interim Chief of Staff for LBJ General Hospital and Associate Dean for Harris County Programs. Despite her busy schedule, she made time for this interview because she believes UCSC is important. For that, we are very appreciative.

The setting was comfortable and informal; we met at her Medical School office. I hoped to get her take on the significance of women’s roles at our institution, and I got much more than that. She said, “Men or women can lead, and we need role models from both. That is, men or women …inspiring both and inspired by both.” It is important to have good role models, regardless of their sex.

Since she is now working for geriatric research, hospital administration and still leading teams here at the Medical School and the School of Nursing, she is touching the lives of many staff, faculty and patients. Considering these varied roles, I wondered who inspired her and why. When I posed the question, her immediate response was Mother Teresa. She had inspired Dr. Dyer early in her career by having such an impact on so many lives. Mother Teresa did this all with minimal resources and with an abundance of humility. “She taught me that you can effect change; you can impact change,” Dr. Dyer noted. She also said that President Colasurdo inspired her, most notably for his humility and integrity, and that she is also inspired each day by her passionate co-workers at Harris Health and UTHealth. She added, “I see their passion, and I want to help them to reach their dreams.”

When asked what she thought would be the biggest challenge for the next generation of women, she said the challenge for everyone, especially women, will be balance: balance of altruism versus what you owe your family versus what you owe yourself. “Sometimes women give so much to family that they fall short on their own health needs. Good health needs to be a priority, spiritually, physically AND emotionally,” she stated. In general, her message was that if we take good care of ourselves, we will be able to focus on the other things that are important, be able to support family, and contribute to the workplace.

We took a few more minutes to discuss health, dress, religion and how she identifies herself. Her passion and focus are on work. It is what gets her up in the morning and helps her make this world a better place.

After leaving her office, I was inspired to make a difference in my own goals, and decided to take a few minutes for exercise in an already busy day. As I walked the few blocks from the Medical School to UCT, I thought about how good she was at leading, gently and effectively. What an inspiration for us all.

--Author: Beth Ardoin Watson
--Photographers: Michael Thompson and Dwight Andrews
We recently sat down with Julie Page, Associate Dean for Clinical Business Affairs at the Medical School and asked her thoughts on females leadership roles. Julie’s reply was that the most important aspect of leadership is placing the right people in the right positions regardless of whether they are male or female. She responded that they must have the qualifications, intellectual capacity, education and, most importantly, experience to do what is required of the particular position. They need to understand what is required and expected of them to be successful; i.e., they have to “get it”. She said, “My own leadership style is to try to hire people who are the best fit for the position and then encourage them to work independently. I am always available to answer questions, and I am here when needed.”

When asked what women inspire you and why, she stated first her mother and sisters. “My mother raised us to have faith and to try to always be kind. She encouraged us to work hard, work hard, work hard, to do what you have to do to get things done, but to enjoy life and look out for others along the way.”

Her parents always led by example, and she learned by watching the way they lived their lives.

Julie has been inspired, also, by her co-workers. She began her career as a CPA in Public Accounting. Then, seventeen years ago, she worked with a physician group in the Medical Center and found this to be where she belonged. “Many of the people I have worked with including Dr. Colasurdo, Kevin Dillon, Dr. Andrassy and Craig Cordola, just to name a few, have been inspirational to me. I believe that even in a leadership position, it is important to understand your role in the organization, and to treat all people at all levels with respect. Always, try to help others, be the go to person, and surround yourself with good people. I work with many professionally strong and independent DMOs.”

Lastly, she was asked her thoughts on the challenges for the next generation of women. “I think women in this country are very lucky. I have never felt discriminated against. I absolutely believe in equal pay for equal work, but I don’t think it should be all about money. I believe we all make choices in our lives that direct our paths, and we need to find the ‘balance’ to enjoy all aspects of our lives.” Thank you, Julie, for sharing your wisdom.

--Author: Sylvia Magellan
--Photographers: Dwight Andrews

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**Spring Puzzle**

**Word Search**
There are 16 words about Spring. Good luck!!

- Axis
- Earth
- Equal
- Equator
- Equinox
- Flowers
- Garden
- Hemisphere
- March
- Northern
- Plants
- Season
- Spring
- Sun
- Tulips
- Vernal

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**Call for Applications - Educational Awards**

*Need some financial assistance with college books and supplies for your child?*

Children of classified staff at UTHealth may be eligible for an award. The UCSC Education Awards application is available online at [http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ucsc](http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ucsc). Be sure to review all guidelines and submit before the FIRM deadline for complete applications of 5:00 p.m. April 26, 2013. (all original documents should be submitted; no scans/copies)

Visit the [UCSC](http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ucsc) website to find out if your dependent can qualify. Details of eligibility, instructions, guidelines and the application form are online at [http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ucsc/educAwards.html](http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ucsc/educAwards.html).

**Previous winners**

2012 winners
- Renee Zhan
- Stacey Lau
- Shaina Gong
- Robin Thomas
- Virginia Lowe
- Vignesh Pandurengan

2013
- *Will your child’s name be here?*

Contact Maria Barrientos at 713-500-3541 if you have questions regarding application requirements.

**Notice of Upcoming Fundraiser**

*Spring Fundraiser for Educational Awards*

The educational awards committee has the honor of being the UCSC point group for helping the children of classified staff by raising funds for educational awards. Last year, the group spearheaded several events and were able to award funds for college to six graduating high school seniors, donating to them a total of $3400.00

Several fundraisers are done annually including silent auctions, the Halloween Boo Bags and our new event this year, SPRING SWEET TREATS.

In a month or so, look for our happy, spring flyers announcing this new event. Look for it around the middle of March, with deliveries in April.

**How you can help!!**

1-If you would like to donate candy for this event, please contact Maria at 713-500-3541 and someone will come by and pick up the candy. Donations help us keep the profits higher = more education money to award.

2-Participate by buying one or several bags to be delivered to you, your friends and family here at UTHealth. Just like the Boo Bags, these goodies that you purchase will be delivered to offices on campus. What a wonderful way to say you care.

3-Consider setting up a Gift-in-Kind & Honorarium. By setting up this tax deductible gift to the Educational Awards fund, you will be increasing the opportunity for students to attend college. Plus, memorial honorarium gifts are a wonderful way to honor the memory of someone special.
### 2012-2013 UCSC Member and Alternate Representatives

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<tr>
<th>General Administration</th>
<th>Medical School</th>
<th>School of Public Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sonia Aguilar 713-500-4733</td>
<td>James Bibb 713-500-5953</td>
<td>JR Foster Bright 713-500-9031</td>
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<td>Perry Ball 713-500-3502</td>
<td>Kathy Brown 713-500-5412</td>
<td>Sandra Grant 713-500-9818</td>
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<td>Maria Barrientos 713-500-3541</td>
<td>Cathy Caldwell 713-500-3702</td>
<td>Staci Hinojosa 713-500-9506</td>
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<td>Jason Bible 713-500-8165</td>
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<td>Robert Cahill 713-500-3042</td>
<td>Katie Chemnisi 713-500-3832</td>
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<td>Dennie Clemmons 713-486-2235</td>
<td>Mary Edwards 713-486-5122</td>
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<td>Diane Collard 713-500-8405</td>
<td>Alicia Franks 713-500-3772</td>
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<td>Suzanne Paramore 713-500-7350</td>
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<td>Michael Williams 713-500-8413</td>
<td>Mary White 713-500-3857</td>
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<td>Doris Woodson 713-500-7092</td>
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<td><strong>Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences</strong></td>
<td><strong>School of Biomedical Informatics</strong></td>
<td><strong>President’s Appointed Member</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracey Barnett 713-500-9887</td>
<td>David Hyden 713-500-3628</td>
<td>Cathy Findley 713-500-5307</td>
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<td><strong>Harris County Psychiatric Center</strong></td>
<td><strong>School of Dentistry</strong></td>
<td><strong>HR Appointed Members</strong></td>
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<td>Christopher Ajadi 713-741-3883</td>
<td>Kassie Broussard 713-486-4032</td>
<td>Debbie Norris 713-500-3141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosalind Myles 713-741-5091</td>
<td>Melinda Polanco 713-486-4386</td>
<td>Jill Strutton 713-500-3135</td>
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<td>La’Merle Rice 713-741-3839</td>
<td><strong>School of Nursing</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chief Human Resources Officer</strong></td>
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<td><strong>HR—Gen Admin</strong></td>
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<td>Eric Fermette 713-500-3113</td>
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<td>Debbie Norris 713-500-3141</td>
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**UCSC - Who we are and why we are here...**

- We believe the UCSC is obligated to communicate with all classified staff, to seek understanding of what staff value, and to communicate those values throughout the university community.
- We believe the UCSC works to provide a foundation for exceptional achievements in education, research, patient care, and community service. We represent the voice of the classified staff community; it is our responsibility to be proactive.

Representatives are elected from UTHealth units each spring. We are comprised of motivated, hard working employees. There are five standing committees under the UCSC:

- **Communications**: Creates the UCSC @ Work newsletters, brochures, banners, takes photos, maintains the UCSC website and edits/approves outgoing communications.
- **Elections**: Recruits nominations of classified staff from each school/unit throughout the University for representation on the UCSC. Conducts elections and maintains attendance.
- **Education Awards**: Brainstorm fundraising ideas, distribute and collect scholarship applications, create selection committee and present awards to students.
- **Staff Development**: Organize events all over the University for training and career development opportunities afforded to classified staff.
- **Staff Recognition**: Plan the annual UCSC Workshop in recognition and appreciation of classified staff.

For more information on the UCSC please visit our web site at [www.uth.tmc.edu/ucsc](http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ucsc)

**UCSC meetings are open to UTHealth classified staff and are held on the second Wednesday of every month in the President’s Conference Room, UCT 17th floor at 2pm.**

**Please join us!**

For additional information about the University Classified Staff Council, visit us at: [http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ucsc](http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ucsc)

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**2012-13 UCSC Communications Committee**

Contributions to this newsletter by:

- Danielle Keeling
- Beth Ardoin Watson
- Sylvia Magellan
- Michael Thompson and Dwight Andrews