Pictured here are members of the
University Classified Staff Council for
2017-2018.

2017-2018 Officers
Jean Grove, Chair
Alainna Talton, Chair-Elect
Melissa Wuennenberg, Secretary
Verlincia Williams, Treasurer
William Severson, Parliamentarian

The mission of University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston
(UTHealth) University Classified
Staff Council (UCSC) is to advise
the President and the university
leadership on behalf of the
classified staff.

The council advises by way of
making recommendations on
existing and proposed policies,
procedures and programs that
impact or are of particular interest to
the classified staff; as well as voicing
any questions or concerns the
classified staff may have.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Current Chair Interview…….. 2
Former Chair Interview ……. 3
Educational Awards ..........4
Member Spotlight ............ 7
UCSC Across the State ...... 8
STOP the Bleed ............... 9
Events and UTHealthy ...... 10
MMS Diversity Fair ......... 11

Representatives are located
throughout the University to meet
your needs. Scan code for a
complete list of UCSC
representatives!
Meet the Chair of our 2017-2018 UTHealth University Classified Staff Council. This interview was conducted by Colin Dunham! Jean shared information about herself and the future of the Classified Staff Council at UTHealth. You will enjoy this article and getting to know Jean.

Q: How long have you been with the UCSC Council?
A: This is my third year.

Q: Have you held any other positions besides Chair in those three years?
A. Yes, I was the chair of the Educational Awards Committee in FY2017 and just a member in FY2016.

Q: What are you most looking forward to as Chair of UCSC?
A. I am most looking forward to trying to both increase the visibility, and to improve the information flow, into and out of the staff council, both to and from our constituents. I’m looking forward to this being a positive experience, for all of the council.

Q: Are there any projects that you want to continue from last year or are there new projects you would like to start this year?
A. I think last year was focused on streamlining some processes, and I’d like to build on that as well as start some process improvement. Additionally, I’d like to do greater outreach as a Council.

Q: Outreach in what way?
A. Outreach in perhaps contacting our new employees, outreach as far as communication, outreach as far as holding “Meet & Greets.” We need different opportunities for classified staff to learn about classified staff, and in order to do that, we (UCSC) have to be out there and be visible.

Q: What is something you’d like the UCSC to know about you?
A. I must have been a deer in a past life because I am definitely a salty snack fan, not a sweet snack fan, ha-ha! On a more serious note, I want them to know that I am accessible. I have an “open door” policy and I hope people feel like they can come talk to me.

Q: Do you have any words of advice or dreams for the FY 2018 Council?
A. My dream is that everyone knows who their UCSC member is and that the council members are seen as information resources and advocates for classified staff members here at UTHealth.
Twelve months ago, I took the baton to serve as the chair of the University Classified Staff Council (UCSC). I can honestly say it has been quite a ride filled with excitement in every sense of the word. We had many new members who came ready to take part in making a difference wherever they could through the UTHealth community via UCSC.

This year, the council has implemented and reestablished a few controls that would help with streamlining some processes while keeping everything transparent to all. Some of these processes were very time consuming, but the time devoted was time well spent.

One of the many successes for the council this year was the UCSC Annual Workshop. This year, the workshop had the theme “Superheroes, Safety First”. For a safety informational session, the superheroes theme made the event a safety class balanced with a sense of humor while filled with information we all need on a daily basis. A job well done by the UCSC Staff Recognition committee, chaired by Ms. Tawaki “Koko” L. Taylor.

In addition to the informational aspect of the workshop, the main highlight of it year after year, is to present the college bound high school graduates of UTHealth classified staff employees with monetary awards to assist with their college expenses. This year, UCSC was able to offer a total of $27,500 in monetary awards ranging from $500 to $3,500 to a record number of 18 UTHealth classified staff high school graduates college bound students. These awards were made possible by the generous donations and financial support from the president’s office, Safety Health Environment and Risk Management, the UCSC educational awards committee fundraising efforts, and personal donations of various UTHealth community faculty and staff.

This year as every year in the past, members of the council, put forth their best effort of supporting the council to ensure a successful year. Without the support of each member, the efforts of the council would be lost. As the council grows and seek opportunities to engage the UTHealth community, it is important for department leaders to understand that their role in supporting the UTHealth Classified Staff Council is also a critical element in the continued success of the organization.

This term was quite an experience. Many things went very well. Some things I believe I could have done differently for a better result. Nevertheless, there are no regrets and I wish every member, both current and past, the very best and hope each of you continue to believe you can make a difference as you work towards the continued success of UCSC.

Thanks to every member, non-voting member, ex-officios, alternates and appointees. Without your support, I could not have made it through this term. Thank you for all you have done to support the UCSC to date.

JR Bright, MBA, eMPA
UCSC Chair 2016-17
The University Classified Staff Council (UCSC) recently presented $27,500 in educational awards to 18 college-bound dependents of UTHealth classified staff employees. The awards, ranging from $500 to $3,500, were a result of generous donations from the university community and executive leadership. The award recipients are:

**Flora Anyalebechi**, daughter of Agnes Anyalebechi, Psychiatric Technician, UTHealth Harris County Psychiatric Center, is described as one “who spends most of her time giving back to her community.” She will attend the University of Houston.

**Mary Kate Ayers**, daughter of Carina Ayers, Senior Manager, Clinical Technology, UTHealth Harris County Psychiatric Center, is said to have “the ability to work with her peers to capture their eyes and attention in order to expand their minds.” She will attend San Jacinto College.

**Chloe Benson**, daughter of Tia Benson, Medical Assistant II, UT Physicians at Sienna Village, is described as “very focused and intrinsically driven to excel in her education.” She will attend Baylor University.

**Theresa Doan**, daughter of Thanh Phan, Dental Assistant II, Department of Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics, UTHealth School of Dentistry, is one whose “strong work ethic allows her to follow through with her ambitious plans.” She will attend Trinity University.

**Justin Feng**, son of Willa Yao-Wei Wang, M.D., Research Coordinator II, Center for Translation-al Injury Research, is described as one who “truly embodies the importance of not only the mind, but of the physical and artistic as well.” He will attend The University of Texas at Austin.

**Chizoba Cynthia Onyemelukwe**, daughter of Lillian Onyemelukwe, A.N.P., Nurse Practitioner, Department of Family and Community Medicine, McGovern Medical School, is said to be one who “understands the connection between hard work and success.” She will attend Boston University.

**Jessica Patcha**, daughter of Pinwo Patcha, Staff Nurse II, UTHealth Harris County Psychiatric Center, is described as a “very dedicated young lady who is kind, determined and persistent with her studies.” She will attend St. Edwards University.
Kenneth Pham, son of Kevin Pham, Programmer Analyst IV, Department of Neurology, McGovern Medical School, is described as “mature and organized [whose] work ethic and attitude provide a good example for his peers.” He will attend The University of Texas at Austin.

Hannah Pruitt, daughter of Margaret Pruitt, Senior Social Worker, Practice Plan, Department of Psychiatry, McGovern Medical School, is said to be “firm in her identity, secure enough to stand up for her convictions, and has courage and perseverance in the face of adversity.” She will attend The University of Texas at Austin.

Andre Rodriguez, son of Miguel Rodriguez, Senior Project Manager, Information Technology, McGovern Medical School, is described as “a shining example of a willingness to seek out weakness and make it strength.” He will attend the University of Houston.

Sierra Rozen, daughter of Kristen Daul, Program Manager, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, McGovern Medical School, is said to have “a personal drive that settles for nothing less than just a little more than what she achieved the last time.” She will attend St. Edwards University.

Dylan Singletary, son of Lamar Singletary, former Senior Project Manager, Department of Facilities, Planning & Engineering, is described as “a self-motivated, passionate young man who has a bright future in front of him.” He will attend Texas A&M University.

Jace Smith, son of Ketti Eipers-Smith, Research Coordinator II, Department of Pediatrics, McGovern Medical School, is said to possess “a gift for insightful judgment and analytical interpretation about a situation or problem.” He will attend St. Edwards University.

Sanjna Udtha, daughter of Malini Udtha, Research Coordinator I, Human Genetics Center, UTHealth School of Public Health, is described as one who “goes above and beyond in terms of her learning and has positively influenced her group partners and classmates in the classroom.” She will attend The University of Texas at Austin.

Maggie Yip, daughter of Kin Yip, Accountant II, Department of Anesthesiology, McGovern Medical School, is
“simply a highly driven, wonderfully accomplished and polished young woman, poised to set the world on fire.” She will attend the University of Houston.

**Tiffany Yu**, daughter of Jin Yu, Systems and Applications Specialist III, Human Genetics Center, UTHealth School of Public Health, is one whose “brilliance will shine anywhere she points her attention.” She will attend Dartmouth College.

**Yuling Aileen Zhang**, daughter of Zhijing Zhang, Senior Research Associate, Department of Ophthalmology, McGovern Medical School, is described as one “emerging into some blend where science meets artistry, compassion meets research and introvert meets leadership.” She will attend California Institute of Technology.

**Nathan Zheng**, son of Yun Gong, Data Manager, Clinical Research, Human Genetics Center, UTHealth School of Public Health, is “clearly an individual who will make a positive change in our community and our future.” He will attend Cornell University.

**Congratulations again and much success to the 2017 UCSC Educational Award recipients!**

---

**A word about the 2017-2018 Educational Awards…**

The application for 2017-2018 Educational Awards will be posted on the UCSC website in the middle of February. The University Classified Staff Council (UCSC) has established this educational award program for children of classified employees. The employee must currently be employed at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). The UCSC Educational Awards Committee administers the annual UCSC Educational Awards Program. The purpose is to identify and honor high school students and to aid as many as possible. All high school students who are about to begin their college careers and are children or legal dependents of full-time UTHealth classified employees are eligible to compete for this award.
Kay “Minjon” Drake is a native Houstonian and began working UT Health as an Executive Assistant in the Office of Development in April 2016. Minjon joined the University Classified Staff Council (UCSC) to meet more of her fellow staff and to become a more involved with UT Health. She currently serves on the UCSC Staff Recognition Committee.

Minjon has a daughter Rebekah, son Rhyan and a Shih Tzu named Bella. She is an identical twin who is also a mirror twin (Minjon is right handed and her twin is left handed). She and her twin are Mono-amniotic Mono-chorionic twins which is the rarest of all identical twins (1%). Minjon’s mother had a very difficult time telling her and her sister apart during her childhood. There are times when the two of them will purchase identical items when they are not together. They sometimes speak at the same time continuously and they refer to it as “in stereo”. In her spare time, Minjon enjoys playing card games, Words with Friends and board games.
Did you know that approximately 5% of the students, faculty and Classified Staff of UTHealth Science Center at Houston are located outside of Houston?

According to the 2016 Factbook, the UTHealth School of Public Health operates six different campuses, “each strategically located to meet the public health education, research and practice needs of Texas’ diverse populations.” Our school is unique among public health graduate schools as it is the only institution in the nation comprised of multiple campuses.

Working at a remote campus offers an environment to work at a small organization that requires greater teamwork and mutual respect, but also has the vast resources of a large university just a phone call or email away.

The UCSC offers an opportunity towards linking the remote campus to the staff leadership at Houston and to increase both participation and visibility from all the campuses. Please challenge yourself and think about colleagues and resources that exist outside of your cube, your workstation, your office, your department, your campus and even your city!

* Source: 2016 Factbook, UTHealth HR
The Stop the Bleed event took place the evening of November 2, 2017 at the Cooley University Life Center. At this event, members of all three UTHealth councils, the University Classified Staff Council, The InterFaculty Council, and The Student InterCouncil, came together to assist in the making of “Stop the Bleed” kits. Leading research currently being conducted suggests that there are many deaths due to loss of blood, which are preventable.

At the Stop the Bleed event, Dr. Sasha Adams trained both students and staff members exactly how loss of blood can quickly lead to death and the steps that can be taken to prevent it. Using instructional videos, medical models of limbs, and other first-aid supplies, participants were instructed in life-saving training. After hearing the presentation, students and staff members had the chance to partner up and practice applying a tourniquet on each other.

Having been led through the training, the last part of the evening included making the “Stop the Bleed” kits. Two long rows of tables were set up and supplies were distributed every few feet to make an assembly line. The “Stop the Bleed” kits were filled with gloves, gauze, tourniquets, a face mask, sanitizing swabs, as well as a step-by-step guide to use as a reference in the event of an emergency. After the bags were filled, they were vacuum compressed and sealed so they could be placed in the AED machines around UTHealth facilities. The goal was to make at least 120 kits as there are 120 AED machines here at UTHealth.

Afterwards, everyone enjoyed pizza before going home upon completion of the successful event.
The Council has been active working with other organizations throughout the campus this year. Some of the activities that UCSC has been present with are:

- Stop the Bleed Event
- MMS Craft Fair
- Fun Fest
- UCSC 2018 Staff Workshop
- UTHealthy Fitness Challenge
- Educational Awards

UTHealth Wellness Challenges

Every year, UTHealth participates in multiple wellness challenges, often in direct competition with other UT System schools. This Fall season was no exception, with UTHealth entering the Health Trails challenge. For the fourth time in a row, UTHealth placed 1st in our category with a combined total mileage of 151,256. This means that “Travis” our traveling trophy will be able to stay for another year. UTHealth competes for the trophy against all large size institutions, including UT Austin, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, UTMB Health and UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Throughout the competition, participants were encouraged to log their steps and other physical activities on the Health Trails website. When participants signed up, they were able to select from a variety of trails that would advance as they logged their physical activity. At different intervals, participants would see a picture as well as a little information about the trail they were on.

Participants could also earn additional miles by answering health related questions every weekday.

This competition was put on through the UTHealth Wellness team. Those wanting more information on how to get involved with our countless fitness challenges and other UTHealth healthy programs should contact Julie Van Orden or Anna Racelis. [https://inside.uth.edu/eap/employee-assistance/index.htm](https://inside.uth.edu/eap/employee-assistance/index.htm)
School Event Spotlight

McGovern Medical School’s 2017 Cultural Fair

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion planned a number of different events throughout the week of October 30th to November 2nd to celebrate the vast diversity at McGovern Medical School.

On Monday, October 30th the faculty, staff and students had the opportunity to sample different cuisines from around the world. They brought various displays and food to help educate our McGovern community about the rich cultural diversity at McGovern Medical School. This annual event began in 2014 and has been a huge success each year. This year the event was held in the McGovern Medical School’s main lobby. What a wonderful walk thru exhibits seeing displays and tasting cuisines from around the world.