

Introducing the new 2005-2006 University Classified Staff Council Chairperson - W. Dennie Clemons



**UCSC Chairperson
W. Dennie Clemons**

Being elected as Chair of the UCSC is an honor. I truly appreciate all of those who have faith in my leadership abilities and who elected me as their leader. During my term as Chair I would like to encourage everyone to step up to the plate by helping to make this university a work place of choice. Take a few moments every week to find out what is happening in our world. Get organized and strive to enjoy working at our university which will not only make YOU feel great but you may actually help someone else feel it too. The leaders of our university have taken a sincere interest in how employees, students and faculty feel about working here. They have taken the first step of good intentions. Now each of us can honor their leap of faith by doing our part to join their efforts. Every day you have the opportunity to decide how your day will begin. Strive to believe in yourself and take a moment to smile. Become passionate about everything that you do and get acquainted with those who work around you. Strive to achieve your dream and when you reach it, begin a new dream. Remember, when life give you lemons, make lemonade. Personally, I prefer cherry lemonade.

Getting to know me - Over the past 18 years I have gained experience and focused on leadership throughout our university. In 1988 I began working at this university in the inventory division, now Capital Assets, of the Accounting department where I learned the university's inventory management system. From there I learned of the university's finances and budget management in the office of Finance & Operation. In the office of Legal Affairs I gained knowledge about malpractice and the various aspects of our legal system. Process automation and quality service was my next endeavor in the office of Continuous Quality Improvement. In Otolaryngology

at the Medical School I worked with faculty, coordinated the residency program, learned about clinical practice and the healthcare system. I am currently in Telecommunication Services for the department of Information Technology where we take care of the university's land lines, long distance, cellular services and voice recognition. For many years I have also conducted the annual elections and recorded minutes of monthly meetings for the Medical School Faculty Senate. Krysti Suarez and I have chaired the UT House Medics program since the 1993 where our crews of volunteers have renovated over 60 homes for the elderly in our community. Until recently, UTHM was the first and largest university wide community service project. I have participated in the Employee Relations Committee and lead the fund raising efforts to enable employee recognition. Volunteerism is a passion for me so I have participated in more than 10 university service events/programs and will continue to offer my skill sets when ever possible.

I was elected as an Alternate for the UCSC and that same year became a full member, assigned to the Staff Development & Recognition committee. The next year I was elected as chair of the SDR committee and lead a group of wonderful people. We were extremely proud of the annual workshop where over 300 classified employees enjoyed a full day of inspiration, encouragement and new skills.

Last year I was voted in as Chair-Elect for the Council and during the year, evaluated the Council, its members and the events of the university. In doing so I realized that we needed to ignite the passion for getting involved and being a part of this university. It is my goal is to ensure that every member feels valued and encourage

everyone to fulfill their role in leadership of classified employees. It may be a few years out, but I would like employees from every walk-of-life to be proud to say that this is a place they choose to work and that they encourage others to join us. This is a large goal, I know. Change begins with me.

"It may be a few years out, but I would like employees from every walk-of-life to be proud to say that this is a place they choose to work and that they encourage others to join us."

I am pleased to be a part a strong and dedicated team of Officers and the Coordinating Committee. Our initial goals for the year include reviewing our committees and bylaws to ensure that they will reflect the Council mission. We will focus on staff development through case round sessions and continue with staff recognition at the annual workshop. We will analyze the Sick Leave Pool and the definition of "catastrophic" illness. We have developed a strong communications team who will maintain our WEB communications and who are already planning our first exciting newsletter for the year. Our Elections committee will be conducting an election at HCPC to fill two vacancies. They have also done a great job encouraging Council members to attend and assist at the Work Place of Choice Ice Cream Socials. We are participating in two committees for dean's reviews. We have a seat on the search committee for the Chief of Human Resources Officer. We are lending a hand to UT Helps for Katrina Evacuees.

Thanks to a wonderful university leader who is no longer with us, classified employees have a voice and our value is recognized by the leaders of our university. I am confident that with their acceptance and the passion flowing through us as Council members, together we can make a difference. I encourage each of you to do your part, go above and beyond your abilities, and write your name in the history of our great university.

Newsletter Date November 2005

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2005 Founders' Fun Fest A Big Hit!

The weather was beautiful, and a good time was had by all in attendance at this years Founders' Fun Fest held on Friday, October 7th at the Hornberger Conference Center.

The decorations were outstanding and the dance floor was packed as classified employees from all UTHSC-H institutions took a breather from their daily grind. There was great food, great music, free photos, and of course teams competing in the chili cook-off and salsa contest.

The UCSC council volunteers greeted all with enthusiasm to get everyone in the mood for fun!

The UCSC Silent Auction benefiting the scholarship fund for children of classified employees was a great success!

Hopefully you were there to enjoy the merriment.



The dance floor was the place to be at the 2005 Founders' Fun Fest!

UCSC Silent Auction at the 2005 Founders' Fun Fest benefits scholarship fund for children of UTHSC-H classified staff



Lisa Byrd, Angel Hooper and James Hightower helping out with the Silent Auction

The U.C.S.C. would like to thank those who participated in the Silent Auction at the Founders' Fest. Winning bidders received certificates from Moody Gardens Conference Center & Resort, Panera Bread, Gaido's Seafood, Hilton Hotel, Alley Theatre, Gringo's Mexican Kitchen, Eliane's Florist and Westin Galleria Hotel. Donated items included a football autographed by Houston Texans' Steve McKinney donated by Mike McKinney, tickets to Houston Texans football game donated by Pauline Habetz, General Administration, and a hand painted water color donated by Patty Browning, MSB. We would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Thomas Clanton, MSB, for his generous donation of Houston Texans football tickets to our fund raising drawing at the Silent Auction. Congratulations to Melinda Lackey, MSB, the winning ticket holder. The U.C.S.C. Silent Auction added \$2100 to our Scholarship treasury. These funds are used to aid college bound children of U.T.H.S.C. classified employees.

For more information on the UCSC Scholarship program please go to:

<http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ucsc/scholarship.htm>

Check us out on the web:
www.uth.tmc.edu/UCSC



Tiffany Carter of the UCSC helps potential bidders at the Founders Fest Silent Auction

2005 STAR Awards



20 year awardee Elease Jenkins shares a moment with 25 year Awardee Ina Fried at the STAR Awards

What Does Service Look Like?

This year's **STAR** Awards, represented more than just milestones for some 546 employees of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. It also

represents their personal investment in the university, their concern for the goals and the mission of the institution. The two most impressive groups were the ones with over 25 and over 30 years of service. There were 13 recipients of the 30 year STAR award (that's 390 years of service), and 39 recipients of the 25 year STAR award, (representing 975 years of service). Since the university was opened in 1972, that means that some of these 13 recipients have been here almost every one of the university's 33 years.

The middle group represented over 2500 years of service! The 20 year STAR award had 60 recipients (for a total of 1200 years) and the 15 year STAR award had 87 recipients (for a total of 1305 years). That's 130260 weeks of service!

As expected, the largest categories were the

5 and 10 year STAR recipients. There were 105 recipients of the 10 year STAR award; that represents a total of 1050 years and additionally 242 recipients of the 5 year STAR award; that represents a total of 1210 years.

Altogether, the recipients represented 6130 years OR 318760 weeks of work cumulatively.

Kudos to all of the recipients for their dedication!



Hurricane Katrina - Thoughts from a UT Employee

The Other Face of Katrina
by Beth Ardoin

I watched as Betsy hit our little town, so small that there are still no street lights. I was there when Camille blew through, but when Katrina came for a visit, much of the family only watching it on TV a safe distance away. I proudly watched as Kathleen Blanco, whose husband was my mentor in college, kept herself together as she told her people to pack up and move away, concerned, as she has always been for their safety as well as their roots.

You see, that part of Louisiana is a people of strength. I explained to the Houston group on Homeland Security the day before the first bus arrived at the Dome. I explained that the culture there is different, not better, but different. Family members live close together ... parents next door to children's families and grandparents not far away. When something goes wrong, you go next door, because family will pull you through. Now, just as when the first Cajuns were forced to split families and arrived at south Louisiana in boats, here again, children were placed in boats and buses - sometimes apart from families - to move them out, fast. With the fear of family units broken,

some preferred to stay put and wait out the storm. That's our culture. It isn't uncommon to hear, "I've never left the parish before, and I see no reason to leave it now." But this was no ordinary storm; this baby meant business.

And so they arrived, busloads of them; tired, but not dispirited. Xak Daffin and I worked at the registration desk that first weekend at the Dome and my fellow Louisianans were still weakly smiling, glad to know there was a roof, clean clothes and warm food-they really wanted warm food. As we logged them into the system, they told us of their family units. "Families" made of people they had not even met the week before, but with whom they had waded through water for four days. As Quitman said, "we fought the water, dogs, trash and junk and we're all here now. This is my family. From here on out, these people are my family."

As I spent evenings after work at the George R., I heard the stories of the children, who thought the rescue boats and the bus ride were an adventure and parents who were glad to have reconnected with their kids bused to other towns. We charged their cell phones, their lifeline to those transported to other cities; we fed their kids; we listened, we listened a lot. At work and on the streets, people

ask, wasn't working there depressing? Didn't you just cry? I smile and say "no", my people will tell you their stories of triumph-they are here, alive, finding their way. They will tell you of their families, who, like mine, have roots in Louisiana dating back to the 1700's when these farmers left the French colony of Acadie as it became the British colony of Nova Scotia. They are survivors. They tell me they are still looking for a sister, and I tell them I am still trying to find my aunt from Chalmette. They smile, and we wish each other well and God's blessing.

When my family moved here 16 years ago, I grew to love Texas, but it will never be "where I am from". Louisiana's soil and food and heart keep you always a part of her. Love her people; give them comfort; listen to them; share your smile. Their strong, deep accent is as spicy as Tony Chachere's. They are a strong people, proud as any Texan. Many will return to New Orleans and rebuild. Some will stay here and open the best Creole or Cajun restaurants! Ask anyone, the two most important things in Louisiana are food and family - and it depends on what time of day it is as to which one tops the list.

I am proud I work in Houston. I am proud of the work I do in Houston, but I will always "be from Louisiana".

McKinney & Mattress Mac Made Points at UCSC Workshop 2005

Dr. Michael McKinney health science center Classified Staff Council Spring Workshop May 20, 2005, which was attended by over 250 employees at the Park Plaza Hotel at Reliant Center. Dr. McKinney was a guest on a mock "Oprah" show, hosted by Jane Brust, the Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs. "I make a living out of managing people who are smarter than me, and I talk to people who are smarter than me," said Dr. McKinney who is Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "I came here two years ago on a 90-day assignment. Back then, it was hard to

find many people who could smile. We were doing good things, but I think we forgot what we had signed up for. Our job is to teach students, do research, and to support the university." Dr. McKinney said he is focused on continued improvement with salaries and for greater stability for Health Science Center employees.

The featured speaker, Jim "Mattress Mac" McIngvale, owner of Gallery Furniture, endeared himself to the audience with his story of inspiration and his generosity when he gave away a \$2,000 television and a \$2,000 mattress. Mr. McIngvale said that the greatest

challenge we have is to use our talents and that success consists of persistence and not giving up. "I came to this town in 1982 with \$5,000 in my pocket and a dream," he said. "Cars, clothes, computers, and money are temporary. Here today: gone tomorrow. Your values are what stay with you. And remember, as the Outback Steakhouse slogan says, 'no rules, just right.'" The customer, the constituent - in this case, the patient - is right. It's all about making a connection, making a difference. Do the unexpected, and do it well."



Dr. Michael McKinney as a guest on a mock "Oprah" show, hosted by Jane Brust, the Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs.



Featured speaker, Jim "Mattress Mac" McIngvale with the 2004-2005 UCSC Coordinating Council

..... UCSC Annual Retreat - OCB Conference Room 8/10/05

The annual UCSC Retreat was a splendid success. This is the day that new members can introduce themselves and their reason for wanting to be part of the classified staff council. For returning and retiring members, it was a day to remember the accomplishments of the past year and celebrate the successes.

Although plied with food and juice, the council got to work on setting up new committees and goals for the new fiscal year. There are changes planned to make UCSC more effective and more communicative, and to

give the classified staff an outlet to communicate. At the end of FY05, a new form was placed on the Website. We hope to use it as a means of finding out what classified staff want to know about, their questions and needs, including topics for newsletter articles. Billy Hinton gave an update on the TRS changes and on what is going on in Austin.

The outgoing chair, Ronda Lowe, thanked and gifted her outgoing council, Chair-Elect W. Dennie Clemons, Secretary Peggy Bleichroth and Treasurer Lori Hill. "Being

chair of the council was a wonderful experience for me both personally and professionally. I know now that classified employees can and do make a difference to the University. I encourage everyone to take a leadership role in whatever way they can."

Leadership of the council was then handed off to Dennie Clemons. Dennie welcomed the new council members. Nominations and elections for officers was carried out and members were chosen for the standing committees.

UCSC Officers

Chair

W. Dennie Clemons
Wanda.D.Clemons@uth.tmc.edu
500-2235

Chair-Elect

Nancy Shipley
Nancy.S.Shipley@uth.tmc.edu
500-5984

Secretary

Chanda Kerlegon
Chanda.M.Kerlegon@uth.tmc.edu
500-3063

Treasurer

Lakeitha Spates
Lakeitha.G.Spates@uth.tmc.edu
713-500-5513

STANDING COMMITTEES

Communications

Alison Miehl

Compensation

Jeannice Theriot

Elections

Tiffiney Carter

Scholarship

Angel Hooper

Staff Development and Recognition

Deborah Hernandez

2005-2006 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

DENTAL BRANCH

Alexander, Loraine 500-4212
Schnupp, Brian 500-4158

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Ardoin, Beth 500-3504
Butler, Pam 500-8182
Carter, Tiffiney 500-3340
Clemons, W. Dennie 500-2235
Hightower, James 500-4717
Hill, Lori 500-4715
Kerlegon, Chanda 500-3063
Suarez, Kristi 500-2241

GRADUATE SCH. OF BIO. SCI.

Theriot, Jeannice 500-9878

HARRIS COUNTY PSYCH. CTR.

Aller, Mildred 741-7839
Merimon, Tammy 741-3859

INSTIT. OF MOLECULAR MED.

McFarland, Ruby 500-2461

MEDICAL SCHOOL

Byrd, Lisa 500-7508
Collins-Williams, Makeba 566-5397
Gracia, Valerie 500-3692
Hernandez, Deborah 500-5813
Johnson, Lakesia 500-5509
Leftely, Theresa 500-5472
Martin, Pamela 500-5738
Miehl, Alison 500-6544
Paramore, Suzanne 500-5670
Shipley, Nancy 500-5984
Spates, Lakeitha 500-5513

SCH. OF HEALTH INFO. SCI.

Tapper, Connie 500-3973

SCHOOL OF NURSING

JoAnn Mendoza 500-2106

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Hooper, Angel 500-9124
Piquet, Guido 500-9060
Ramsey, David 500-9061

UCSC Mission Statement

UTHSC-H aspires to be the model health sciences university for the 21st century, dedicated to improving the health of the people of the State of Texas and the nation.

The university needs classified staff to accomplish this mission. Our efforts provide the foundation for UTHSC-H exceptional achievements in education, research, patient care, and community service. The classified staff recognizes and embraces our

role. We are committed to develop in ourselves the qualities of collegiality, creativity, professionalism, compassion, cultural diversity and a capacity for leadership.

The University Classified Staff Council pledges to lead classified staff in accomplishing this goal by representing, informing and mentoring staff members.

Mark your Calendars!

2006 UCSC WORKSHOP

April 28, 2006

Park Plaza Hotel



2005-2006 University Classified Staff Council

