

Information

CLASSIFIED

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U★C★S★C

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A Fabulous Fun Fest

Article and Photos by Terrance March

There were beads, masks and boas floating around the room as The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston's employees swarmed the Hornberger Center on October 6th. The theme for the 2006 Founder's Fun Fest focused around masquerade and New Orleans. Over 1700 employees partied the afternoon away with a DJ that kept them on the dance floor. The DJ also grabbed a few people and had them karaoke a few "oldies but goodies" songs including one memorable rendition of *Proud Mary*. There was much to do and



win at The Fest. Listed below are the winners of the ever-popular Chili Cook-off and growing-in-popularity Salsa Contest.

Chili Cook-off winners:

- 1st - BEVO (Beauties Eat Vegetarian Only)
- 2nd - Big Chief's Chili (LBJ)
- 3rd - Chili Chicks (SPH)

Hot Salsa Contest winners:

- 1st - Chili Chicks (SPH)
- 2nd - Big Chief's Chili (LBJ)
- 3rd - UTSNA (SON)

The School of Health Information Sciences showed



their spirit and readiness to party by coming dressed in black with orange feathered masks and orange and white boas.

As employees walked around to see what they could bid on at the UCSC Silent Auction, there were door prizes being dispersed. The grand prize drawing was a 2007 Audi Q7 for the weekend which was won by Kay Williamson. After it was all said and done, faculty, staff and students had enjoyed good food, good music and each other.

A special thanks goes to DJ Phillip Pampelino, Catch the Moment, Pappas Bar-B-Q Catering, the planning committees and all employees who volunteered their time.

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More Fun Fest Photos



Winners



The ever important silent auction for scholarship funds



Yeah, more winners!

Welcome from the UCSC Chair



I am humbled by those who have expressed their faith in me by electing me to serve as the chair of the University Classified Staff Council. Many of you have taken time out of your busy schedules to congratulate me. I am truly grateful for your kind words and look forward to working with all of you. This coming year I want to serve as an active "sounding board" and help all the members of the classified staff realize just what an important part of the University they are.

I started in an academic state system a lifetime ago at the University of California, Santa Barbara. I then moved from there to work for the University of Florida, Gainesville before coming to Texas via Boston. Here in Texas I started with Texas A&M then moved to the University of Houston, Main Campus and finally came to UTHSC-Houston 15 years ago.

I was originally attracted to the UCSC 5 years ago. As a laboratory worker I often felt as if I was one of the last ones to be told anything and did not get the complete story. I knew that if I wanted to change that situation, I needed to find a way to get more involved. As others of you may feel, I wanted information but did not want to get "too involved". Becoming a member from an alternate position partway through the second year of a two-year term gave me a taste of what the council represents. I have found myself wanting to know more and have started feeling that what I have to say is being heard.

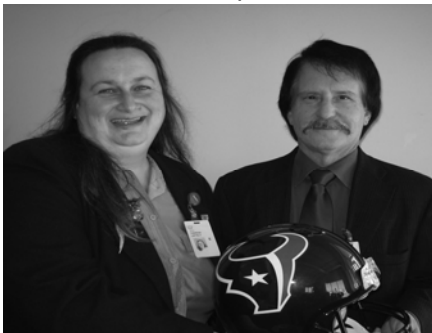
Even though I am no longer a "lab rat" I have wanted to stay involved in what is going on. Over the years the current and past members of the council have shown me that any level of involvement is welcome. In the coming year I would like to have more of the employees of the university participate in whatever way they can with the many different activities going on. After all, we all spend the majority of our day here at work. Not only should we be bragging that we work in the largest medical center in the world (this is Texas after all) but we work for one of the best components within it.

My challenge to all of the employees is this: find out who the representative from your area is. Take the time to drop them an e-mail or call them to say thanks. The UCSC members are making time in their schedules to represent you. Let us know what you like or dislike about what is going on in your area of the university. Your input is vital to us so that we can address areas that need a closer look and ones that deserve a round of applause. Wouldn't it be great if everyone has a reason to clap!

Honors and Winners

Winner of Helmet Drawing

Bill Fetter, in Human Resources, won the David Carr helmet at a drawing on December 13, 2006. The fundraiser brought in \$312 for 2007 scholarships!



Theresa Leftely presents Dr. Fetter his prize.

Congratulations Virginia Wall

Congratulations to Virginia Wall, LMSW, named winner of The President's Award for Mentoring Women - Classified Staff Mentor for 2006. She was nominated for this award by Theresa Leftely, Mary Hilliard, RN, Marilyn Doyle, MD and Ms. Tammie Frasure, and was presented with her award at the annual banquet for the Committee on the Status of Women in December. Find out more about her award and past winners at <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/csw>.

Great job, Virginia. We're all proud of you!

Award Nominees

UCSC would like to congratulate all of those nominated for The President's Award for Mentoring Women - Classified Staff Mentor for 2006. Although not chosen this year, it is certainly an honor to be recognized by your peers.

Kathy D. Crowley
Joan Miller
Catherine D. Sheppard, MBA, BBM
Lawrence C. Shimmin, Ph.D.
Helen Zapata, RVT

A Fabulous Fun Fest — more photos



Personal Commentary—Conflict or Smile, Smile, Smile

by Lisa Byrd

UT has a great Human Resources Department that offers a wide range of classes that deal with various subjects. One of the areas where they are willing to help is in resolving conflicts. They offer assistance to help us avoid and/or contend with these types of situations. Conflict in the workplace is an issue that no one wants to have. However, it is a natural result of having so many different personality types working together. We all hope it never happens to us. Nevertheless, sometimes, it just does.

What can we do about it? The answer is: we can look for help. As I mentioned before, Human Resources may be able to offer some assistance with classes they hold. Another campus group that might help is the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). EAP will be happy to come to the department and sit down with the person or persons involved in the conflict. They offer themselves as an unbiased third party to meet, discuss and listen to talk about issues. Someone who is trained to assist in getting to the root of a problem and who can offer ways to resolve it can be just the thing to help parties 'see the light'.

Every day, all day, we make assumptions about those around us. This person is sweet; that one has an attitude problem; etc. Many of us feel that our perceptions are true reality, but instead they really are 'personal opinion'. Unfortunately, however, we can sometimes be judged on other people's perceptions, regardless of the amount of truth in their perception. Suddenly we are faced with defending ourselves against allegations that we may feel are unfair or untrue, we may feel reprimanded, or even be brought in to mediation over events or conversations we don't even remember.

The good news is that UT has several ways we can get help with working out any conflicts. Here are some:

First, try talking to someone who is not involved in the issue, like an EAP advisor. Your time with them is confidential. I spoke briefly with Debbie Norris who is an Employee Relations Advisor. Her first comment was "always try to work it out before doing anything formally." That way, it stays out of everyone's permanent records.

Secondly, check out the training classes at the HR site for yourself or for your department. http://hr.uth.tmc.edu/Training_Development/training_development.html

Thirdly, Check out the links on the EAP site. <http://www.uthouston.edu/worklife/EAP/index.html>

Fourthly, look for help in the Handbook of Operation Procedures (HOOP). http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/admin_fin/planning/pub/hoop/

Remember to make use of all the resources available to us; stay informed; and **smile, smile, smile.**

Work / Life Snippet

Take a walk for your health and education

Article and Photos by *Beth Ardoin Watson*

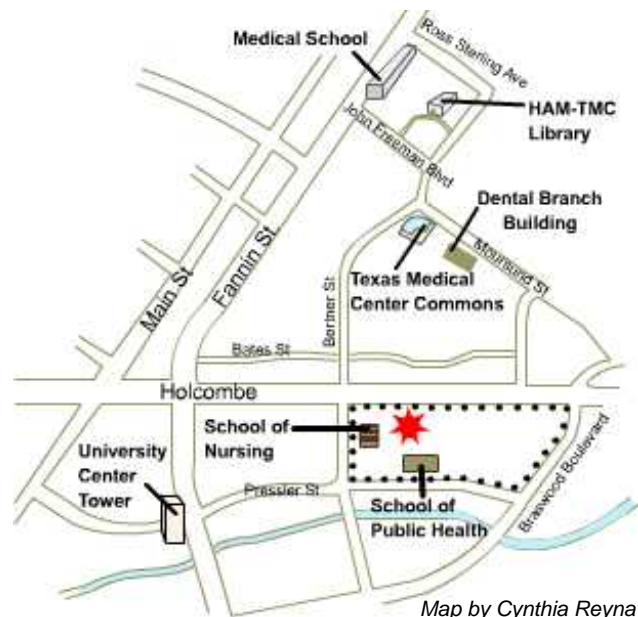


This 2000 step walk will bring you around the School of Public Health and the School of Nursing and Student Community Center. Tucked behind these is the TMC's Grant Fay Park. This quiet, little TMC getaway boasts a gazebo under a canopy of trees, birds and butterflies and a fountain with a pixie. The base of the fountain is embellished with the symbol for Humouralism, the principal theory of medicine, dating back to Hippocrates. Also in the park are three large boards explaining the basic theory of Humouralism.

Just outside of the park, behind the School of Public Health, is a cast bronze sculpture entitled "Emergence" by artist Bruce Beasley, dated December 15, 2000 and donated by Herbert L and Margaret W. DuPont.



This newsletter brought to you by the UCSC Communications Subcommittee:
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THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON
University Classified Staff Council