Recently I was again reminded just how fragile life is. We all have experienced surprising, even shocking situations in our life, whether it was an unexpected family member’s death or perhaps an unexpected positive event like an increase in pay, promotion, marriage proposal - you name it. Fact is, life can come at us fast, and if we’re not firmly grounded to handle the unforeseen, it can throw us off balance. Sometimes we can adjust quickly; other times, we cannot. But, it's how we respond – emotionally, physically, and intellectually - that's important.

I was excited to be on my way to a colleague's wedding, having given myself an hour head start. Apparently Loop 1604E road closings diverted traffic into my planned path forcing me to take a much longer route. I was making reasonable time on Loop 410E nearing Exit 20, planning to exit at 20A to 281S. This segment of the Loop is notoriously bumper-to-bumper as drivers circus maneuver across lanes to exit with little notice. As the white pickup truck before me inched its way into the backed-up exit lane to my right, I regained the speed limit plus five still attempting to beat the bride down the aisle. As I was accelerating past the pickup, for reasons unknown, he pulled hard back into my lane instinctively causing me to pull hard into the adjacent lane, directly into a Honda FIT. Never heard of a Honda FIT! The cars limped to a stop fifty yards ahead. In a Nano-second; the unexpected. Thank the Lord though, miraculously no one was hurt, and both cars were drivable, though in great need of repair to legally drive them.

The other driver was in his late 20s and a lead guitarist in a rock band. We became reasonably good acquaintances over the next 1 ½ hours. He played two songs for me from their recent first album on his iPod; actually enjoyed them. He was on the way to band practice. Oh, and he'd just made the last payment on his car three months ago. Don’t imagine I’ll receive an autographed first album; after all, I’d just seriously damaged his car and could have killed him.

Where was the white pickup you might ask? He’d thoughtlessly exited past us.

Yes, in a flash our lives can be affected to the positive or negative with lessons to be learned. The guitarist learned maybe he ought to consider the purchase of a larger car to provide enhanced protection. I re-learned the importance of driving defensively, anticipating the unexpected, being proactive in observing the lurking dangerous roadway conditions.

Proactivity can serve as well at work too. How proactive are you, and what does it look like? A few examples: being willing to take risks with new challenges and responsibilities; volunteering for a difficult assignment no one else wants; supporting and identifying opportunities for improving productivity and efficiency; getting your assignments completed early; asking your supervisor what you can do for them (virtually no one does this - be the one); and setting the example by going out of your way to show your appreciation and recognize others for THEIR contributions.

Will being proactive insulate you from the unanticipated? Maybe; maybe not. But it will place you in an elite group of staff who I’d wager have more fun, advance quicker, are more productive, and enjoy their jobs more than anyone else.

Life IS fragile – like a vapor – so to the bride and groom… give a lot of grace, forgive quickly, and be gentle with each other. Oh, and congratulations on your union!

Kerry
Barbara Baran-Centeno, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, was recently invited to become a member of the Society of Higher Education Human Resource Executives (SHEHRE).

SHEHRE was founded in 1992 to focus on leadership in human resources in higher education. This is a member-only organization. Individuals must be nominated and approved for membership by the SHEHRE Board of Directors. Currently, SHEHRE has a membership of approximately 70 senior human resource executives in higher education. Members represent a variety of higher education universities and colleges and are all in charge of their human resource divisions, playing key leadership roles within their respective institutions and with other institutions regionally and nationally.

SHEHRE provides the opportunity for senior executives to network and discuss current trends, future initiatives, leadership opportunities, problems, areas of concern and other opportunities related to human resources in higher education settings. The organization is a “think tank” that brings the best in the field together to dialogue and exchange ideas and resources concerning issues that will affect human resource leadership and management for years into the future.

Congratulations, Barbara, for the honor of becoming a member of the Society of Higher Education Human Resource Executives!

Diane Mazuca has been part of the UTSA Human Resources family for over six years. Prior to joining UTSA, she gained valuable experience as an HR generalist at Reco/York International, Pace Foods, and Harcourt Brace. She graduated from UTSA in May 1990. She recently earned her PHR (Professional in Human Resources) designation in January 2012.

Diane started out at UTSA in a part-time capacity after a 10 year employment break to be a full-time mom and has been full-time for the last 2½ years. She has four children, three of which are teenagers. Last year, Diane and her husband, Tim, officially adopted their fourth child. She and Tim have been married for 24 years. Diane’s teens keep her busy editing college essays, attending football and theatre programs, acting as general chauffeur, not to mention feeding them home-cooked meals.

Luckily, Diane likes to cook and is known to bring homemade goodies for special occasions and just because. She volunteers at her church, likes to bargain shop at the mall and find specialty items at estate sales. Diane also spends a lot of time chasing her two dogs who are fence escapees.

Diane takes pride in taking care of her family and customers. She works hard to ensure the STARS employment postings meet the needs of the department and provide a clear job picture for applicants.

Thank you Diane, for your service to the university and Business Affairs.

Diane will be receiving a Roadrunner meal card to use for either breakfast, lunch or dinner at the Roadrunner Cafe, compliments of ARAMARK. Our thanks to ARAMARK for their support!

The first issue of The Spotlight: A Look into PeopleSoft is now available on the UTShare at UTSA website. This issue primarily focuses on the benefits PeopleSoft will bring to UTSA. For example, through Employee Self Service (ESS), in PeopleSoft, employees will be able to electronically update their personal information, request a name change, view benefits elections and even complete their Form I-9. To view the latest Spotlight, which includes a snapshot of some of the benefits PeopleSoft will bring, please visit www.utsa.edu/utshare/spotlight.
Travel Policy Changes

The U. T. System and its Travel Council issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for system-wide travel management services with the following goals:

- Streamline contract management
- Improve reporting
- Minimize cost
- Improve overall service focusing on the traveler and travel arranger
- Provide innovative use of technology

Beginning May 13th, all U. T. System employees will be REQUIRED to use one of the following travel agencies: Corporate Travel Planners or Anthony Travel.

All employees will be REQUIRED to use one of the following car rental agencies: Enterprise/National Holdings, Avis/Budget Group, and Hertz Corporation.

If you have questions, please contact:
Diana Macias-Ollervidez
Assistant Controller
diana.ollervidez@utsa.edu
458-6915

Nora Compean
Assistant Director, Disbursements and Travel Services
nora.compean@utsa.edu
458-4831

For more information about this announcement and other announcements concerning UTSA Travel please go to: utsa.edu/financialaffairs/dts/announcements.cfm.

New UTSA Travel Requirements Information Sessions (AM 575):

- **Main Campus**
  - March 18th, 9:00 – 10:30
  - UC 2.01.26
  - March 25th, 9:00 – 10:30
  - UC 2.01.26

- **Downtown Campus**
  - March 13th, 9:00 – 10:30
  - DB 2.316
  - March 27th, 9:00 – 10:30
  - DB 2.316

- **University Heights**
  - March 20th, 9:00 – 10:30
  - UH 1.108

Go to https://mytraining.utsa.edu to enroll in these sessions.

Get Prepared, Stay Prepared

Spring is upon us, and the UTSA Office of Emergency Management (x6851) would like to get back to basics when it comes to emergency preparedness. With all the stressors in our daily lives, we often forget how important it is to prepare for emergencies. If you follow the simple measures outlined in this article, you'll be prepared to act when disaster strikes.

First things first – prepare an emergency kit! In order to respond to any type of emergency, you are advised to put together an emergency kit for your home, car, and office/workplace. Items to include in your kit include water/sports drink, snacks, medications, first-aid kit, important documents, clothes, flashlight, batteries, cell phone charger, and personal hygiene products.

Next on the path to preparedness is to develop an emergency plan. Preparing a plan ahead of time will assist you during an emergency and lessen the stress of figuring out what to do and who to contact. Your plan should include emergency contact information, phone numbers of emergency services, important personal information for emergency responders (medical allergies, doctors, etc), and other basic preparedness information.

Lastly, stay informed! Know the hazards that surround you at all times, and learn how you can respond to different types of emergencies. For certain types of emergencies, such as severe weather, there is time to gather information and act appropriately. But, as is the nature of the beast, emergencies can jump out at you without warning. Therefore, listen to the news, monitor weather conditions, research local threats, and most importantly, share this information with your family, friends, and coworkers. To stay informed regarding university emergencies or closures, visit the UTSA Campus Alerts webpage at www.alerts.utsa.edu. Knowledge is the core of emergency preparedness – don’t be scared, empower yourself!

Together, we can build and sustain a safe campus community. The UTSA Office of Emergency Management is committed to providing quality and accurate preparedness information to our campus family, and we hope you take steps to ensure your personal and family preparedness needs.

Be Prepared – Make a Plan

Stay Informed!

Be safe UTSA!
Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.

Abraham Lincoln

Delivering excellent customer service is of the utmost importance to Debbie. She genuinely cares about her students' needs. Debbie will replace Frank Salinas who recently accepted a promotion as the new Manager of Distribution Services, and now offices at the Main Campus. Higher education has always been part of Debbie’s life. Prior to UTSA, Debbie worked at the University of Missouri. In 1984, she moved to San Antonio and began working at UTSA as an accounting clerk, and then as a travel coordinator in the Office of Disbursements. In 1997, she accepted the position of accounting technician for the Bursar’s Office located at the downtown campus.

Debbie enjoys working downtown and building relationship with her students, parents and staff alike. She is proud to serve over 6,000 students in what is a one stop shop for every business need. “Fiscal Services, Enrollment Services, Registrar, and Financial Aid are all just an arm’s length away, which makes it easy to serve our students”, she says. “I’m really proud of what I do and where I work. Many of our former students recognize me outside of UTSA, in the grocery store or while I’m running errands. When they don’t recognize me by name, they always remember me from the downtown campus. They thank me for making their educational journey a good experience.”

In her 29 years of working at UTSA, Debbie has met and befriended many individuals; however, she credits one for always helping her along. “Gary Lott started six months earlier than me. He trained me and since then, has always been there to help. He truly makes my job easier, and is a very caring and supportive individual,” says Riley.

Delivering excellent customer service is of the utmost importance to Debbie. She genuinely cares about her students’ needs.

Debbie Riley can be reached at Deborah. Riley @utsa.edu or at 458-2827.

Congratulations Debbie!
Construction Update

Construction of the new campus gateway monuments at Peace Blvd. is now complete. These stately structures complete the north entry campus development that includes the entry roundabout, Bauerle Road extension, transit bus hub, oval and plaza greenbelt that were completed last fall. The completion of this project represents a significant milestone achieving a key component of UTSA’s Master Plan.

The monuments are constructed of smooth and textured face limestone to continue the current campus architectural vernacular. Tiered massing was adopted to define the form of the monuments, which are topped with inset frosted glass components that extend beyond the apex and side of the limestone vertical elements. Crowning the structures, “UTSA” is prominently displayed in the University’s standard blue. Additional campus identification is located at the pedestrian level. New walkways are flanked by the monument on one side and tiered limestone planters on the other. The monuments are enhanced with 13 species of plants while Italian cypress trees, when fully mature, will provide a complementary backdrop to these dignified structures.

New Single Stream Recycling

As part of UTSA’s ongoing efforts to increase recycling on campus, you can now discard Styrofoam cups, plates, and take-away food containers in any of the blue recycling bins. Note that, packing materials such as peanuts and foam box liners are not accepted at this time.

Ready for some spring cleaning… now is the time to get rid of unnecessary paper.

The Shred Pod will be on the Main Campus March 21-22. Staff can bring sensitive documents from home or office for shredding.

Staff at the Downtown and HemisFair Park campuses are also invited to participate, or can contact the Office of Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management at 210-452-7252 to arrange document pick-up at their respective campuses.

Diploma Dash Participants

EHSRM: Gina Rogers, Adam Rogers, Michael Sullivan, Shannon Marquess, Anna Racelis and Glynis Mallia

Business Auxiliary Services: Sandra Sanchez, Leo Amaro, Javier Munoz, and Sam Barrera.
Rowdy Wellness Week

UTSA is hosting the 2013 Rowdy Wellness Week, April 1-5, in conjunction with National Public Health Week. During this week, the campus community is invited to attend health screenings, wellness activities, and educational seminars at the Main Campus.

The goal of the Rowdy Wellness Week is to improve lifestyles, change unhealthy habits, create awareness, and provide available resources on and off campus.

Please see the schedule below for educational seminars available to faculty and staff on April 2nd & 4th.

Wednesday, April 3rd, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, faculty, staff, and students will have an opportunity to pre-register for a Step-a-thon. This event is in collaboration with the 2013 State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) where 100% of the pledges will be donated to the American Heart Association. We encourage the UTSA community to walk during lunch and raise money for this organization. During the walk, participants will be given a “passport” to have an opportunity to visit as many booths as possible for a chance to win prizes from different health organizations.

Events are sponsored by: Aramark, EHS&RM, Campus Recreation, Human Resources, State Employee Charitable Campaign, Student Health Services, and Rowdy New U.

Come Out and Celebrate Rowdy Wellness Week on April 1-5!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/02/13</td>
<td>Intro to Financial Planning</td>
<td>10:30-noon</td>
<td>UC 2.01.24 Mesquite</td>
<td>Charles Davenport</td>
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<td>Fitness Anywhere! No Excuses</td>
<td>12:15pm-1:45pm</td>
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<td>Stress Management</td>
<td>10:30-noon</td>
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<td>Intro to Financial Planning</td>
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<td>UC 2.01.26 Pecan</td>
<td>Charles Davenport</td>
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<td>Overcoming Emotional/Stress-</td>
<td>12:15pm-1:45pm</td>
<td>UC 2.01.24</td>
<td>Annie Bell</td>
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Police Internship

Each semester, the UTSA Police Department offers an internship program for UTSA students or other college students who are majoring in Criminal Justice. The purpose of the internship program is to allow students an opportunity to gain knowledge and experience in law enforcement. Interns are rotated through all areas of the police department to give the intern a good understanding of how all sections work together to meet the needs of the community in which the department serves. Interns have the opportunity to compare and contrast academic teachings to real-life situations.

A former intern recently wrote a thank you letter to the department. He said, “During my internship with the UTSA Police Department, I had the wonderful opportunity to meet several great people. The experience was more than I could expect and allowed me the freedom to develop as a professional individual among them.”

The internship program is supervised by Ofc. Melody Piepho of the Crime Prevention Unit. She develops the curriculum and standards for the program.

Easter Morning Breakfast Rolls

1 package of marshmallows
1 package of frozen roll dough. (Thawed)
1/3 cube of butter (melted)
4 Tablespoons of Sugar
3/4 teaspoon of Cinnamon

For complete directions visit: http://www.mommyblessings.com/2009/04/easter-morning-breakfast-roll.html?m=1

Happy Easter
Chancellor’s Letter on Concealed Hand Guns

The University of Texas System

Office of the Chancellor
601 Colorado Street, Austin, TX 78701-2992
Phone: 512-475-4800 Fax: 512-475-4213

March 12, 2013

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
State Capitol
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Since the last legislative session, the nation has experienced new episodes of gun violence that have sharpened national attention on the issue. In that context and as in recent sessions, the 83rd Texas Legislature is considering legislation relating to the presence of concealed handguns on university campuses. As Chancellor of the state’s largest university system, I take this opportunity to express my concerns, as I did during the 82nd legislative session.

I respect the legislature’s authority to decide this public policy issue, and that neither all legislators nor the Texans they represent will agree. However, during my tenure as Chancellor, parents, students, faculty, staff, administrators, and institutional law enforcement officers have all expressed concern that the presence of concealed handguns on our campuses will make the campus environment less safe.

There is both a general concern about the danger that handguns inherently present, as well as specific concerns. Campus mental health professionals, who regularly face the reality that suicide is a leading cause of death among university students, are concerned that the presence of handguns will lead to an increase in accidental and self-inflicted wounds. Campus law enforcement personnel are particularly concerned about the ability of their officers, each a highly trained professional, to distinguish—in colloquial terms—the good guys from the bad guys on a crowded campus when several persons may have guns visible in an incident. And personnel in our university laboratories and hospitals are concerned about their environments where gases and chemicals under pressure may present unique dangers were a firearm to be discharged.

I acknowledge the great work our police officers perform every day across our university campuses to make them safe. Both supporters and opponents of permitting concealed handguns on university campuses believe their approach will make campuses safer. I believe that, on balance, the permitted presence of concealed weapons will contribute to a less-safe campus environment. I respectfully request that the legislature ensure that all concerns and considerations are weighed as it makes such an important decision, as I am confident it will.

With great respect,

Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D.
Chancellor

FGCCjp

Business Affairs Promise

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