The campus is bustling with tour groups of prospective students and their families. It’s something that happens every spring. Although we have been through it many times, we have to remember that it’s new for them. Let’s put our best foot forward. Smile and greet each visitor with enthusiasm. After all, it’s the recruitment of new UTSA students that is the lifeblood of our university.

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with our Top Scholar candidates and their families. These are potential scholarship recipients who have many campuses competing for their attention. When I think about all that we offer Roadrunners with our campus environment and services, these highlights come to mind.

**At UTSA, our students have the opportunity to not only fit in, but stand out.** With over 300 student organizations and countless leadership opportunities, our students gain the skills that most employers are looking for and have a great time doing it.

UTSA was selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to receive its distinguished Community Engagement classification for our commitment to community service. We recently announced the GoldStar Initiative, a 40 million dollar project that will further strengthen our research commitment by bringing 60 new top-tier researchers to UTSA over the next four years.

Our students have many options to challenge and develop themselves intellectually, personally and professionally. In January, 41 students participated in a Civil Rights Exploration Trip that took them on a journey through several historical locations in New Orleans, Birmingham and Memphis. They traveled the paths of people before them who envisioned a different world, a better world and what they had to endure and do to achieve it. And our past students have come back inspired like never before.

Another group of students here on campus had a vision. The grass-roots efforts of this group who wanted to see a roadrunner statue on campus grew to a campus-wide campaign. And with the support of Student Affairs and other offices, they have achieved this goal. The students worked with Facilities staff and architects to determine the best location for this 1000 lb. Rowdy that will grace the campus for generations to come—this idea became a reality because of their actions, determination and follow-through.

Our students have choices of where to attend college, but we think UTSA is right for them. I am proud of what we offer students. Together we provide them with an incredible college experience due, in large part, to all your contributions.

Sam
Spotlight on...

Tracy Merritt

Tracy calls Medina Lake her home, growing up in the small town of Mico and graduating in 1989 from Medina Valley High School in Castroville. Tracy has two sons, Brandon, 18, and Dalton, 15. Brandon is in his first year of college studying Computer Animation at Northwest Vista College, and Dalton is a sophomore at Bandera High School.

Tracy earned an associate’s degree in Radio, TV and Film from San Antonio College and is currently an undergrad at Wayland Baptist University studying Justice Administration.

She began working at the UTSA Police Department in March 2010, where her duties included lost and found, front office receptionist, criminal background checks (CBC’s), fingerprinting and assisting in cadet recruitment and processing. Tracy was promoted and joined the Office of Business Continuity and Emergency Management in July 2011. She recently transferred to the administrative support division of the police department assisting with purchasing, CBC’s, and department inventory to name a few tasks.

Tracy’s former Director said, “Tracy has proven to be a great asset to UTSAPD, going well beyond the scope of her position, yet she accepts the challenges with an open mind and eager heart and has demonstrated that her professionalism and positive attitude come before all else, continuously going the extra mile to assist not only her coworkers, but also others in the UTSA community across disciplines and departments.” She was the recipient of the Chief’s Commendation Award in 2013.

Thank you, Tracy, for your service to Business Affairs and the University community.

Tracy 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!

Kathryn Funk-Baxter

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) announced March 3, 2015, the selection of Kathryn Funk-Baxter, a 1988 Master’s of Business Administration graduate of UTSA, as Vice President for Business Affairs, effective April 27.

Funk-Baxter currently serves as Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Since joining A&M-Corpus Christi in 1996, she has also served as Sr. Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration, and in a number of other financial-related positions with progressively increasing responsibilities.

During her time at A&M-Corpus Christi, Funk-Baxter also served as chair of the compliance, space management, and parking and transportation committees, a member of the strategic planning leadership team, chair of the facilities use task force, and as chair or a member of several search committees for deans, directors and executive leadership positions.

"UTSA is an exceptional university and I am proud to have an opportunity to give back to the university that contributed so much to my education and professional success," said Funk-Baxter. "I am so excited to return home to San Antonio and rejoin the Roadrunner family."

Funk-Baxter graduated from McCollum High School, received her Bachelor of Business Administration (Honors) degree from Southwest Texas State University in 1979 and her Master of Business Administration degree from The University of Texas at San Antonio in 1988.

Join us in welcoming Ms. Funk-Baxter to Business Affairs.

To view the entire article, click here.
Dear Mr. (Ray) Rios,

As I depart Counseling Services team to join the Accounting Department, I would like to thank you and your team for the exceptional customer service your department consistently provides Counseling Services.

In the three and half years with the clinic, I have submitted countless work-orders such as paint services to renovate two main rooms along with several hallways, lighting issues, bulb replacements, routine plumbing concerns and in some cases emergency calls to fix a leak in the shared restrooms. As you can tell we have depended greatly on your promptness and dedication to service to ensure our student population is cared for. I recall two separate occasions you personally identified, addressed, and fixed the office power outage due to a malfunctioning power breaker. You also identified and resolved the unwelcomed visit by a rodent into the air duct of the air conditioner which created a hazardous smell throughout the clinic - there’s never a dull moment at UTSA!

I would like to commend your dedication and commitment to service which keep Counseling Services operational. Thank you for all your hard work it’s been a pleasure working with the Facilities Team!!!

Sincerely,
Maria G. Zayas
Black History Month

On Friday, February 27, 2015, UTSA’s Human Resources Department had their taste buds and cultural interest fed by five of their fellow employees. Claudia White, Yvonne Harris, Cheryl Huguley, Catina Rover and Kathleen Carter-Stiggers presented the HR Department with “Food for the Soul.” While sharing some of the dishes that have been the pinnacle of African American meals for centuries, they educated their co-workers on the history of Black History Month.

In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week, it later became Black History Month in 1976 during the nation’s bicentennial. He chose the second week of February in honor of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas. He wanted to call the nation’s attention to the significant contributions African Americans made to America while giving them a sense of pride in their heritage and hope for the future.

The event highlighted people who made Black History memorable and their accomplishments, to include:

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the American civil rights activist who on August 28, 1963 gave the “I have a Dream” speech.

Ida B. Wells, an African American journalist, newspaper editor, suffragist, socialist, and an early leader in the civil rights movement.

Anne Lowe, the African American fashion designer who designed Jacqueline Kennedy’s wedding dress and other high profile clients to include the Rockefellers.

W.E.B. DuBois, one of the most important African American activist in the first half of the 20th century and co-founder of the NAACP.

The goal of sharing historical dishes and information on Black History Month was to educate and create awareness about the rich African American Culture, to emphasize historical facts, and to highlight the significant contributions that have helped shape our lives.

Credit Card Changes

During the next few months, UTSA Procard, CLIBA, and TAC cards are being migrated to Chip and PIN cards. Chip and PIN cards contain an encrypted microprocessor that is embedded within the card. If the card is lost or stolen, the embedded microchip makes the card difficult to counterfeit.

Cardholders will be scheduled to exchange the existing cards for the Chip & PIN cards once the cards are received and inventoried by Procard/Travel Card Administration (PTCA). Below is a list of important timelines concerning acquiring new micro-chipped cards:

- Accounts with activity in the last 18 months will be migrated in March.
- A card that expires before October 2015 will be reissued as a Chip and PIN card 30 days prior to expiration date.
- A card that expires after October 2015 will be migrated in March.
- An inactive card (no activity in last 18 months) will be reissued as Chip and PIN 30 days prior its expiration date. Exception: if a transaction posts to an inactive card, Citibank will issue a Chip and PIN card prior to its expiration date.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email at Procard.Travelcard@utsa.edu.

UTShare

This month’s UTShare Spotlight for UTSA focuses on “Tips” and “How To” information that can make using PeopleSoft easier to use. Future publications will continue to deliver this type of information so the campus community will be kept up to date. Click here to follow the Spotlight
The UTSA Police Department & Office of Emergency Management were recognized by the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation as a national recipient of their community grant program. The foundation funded the Floor Captain Safety Liaison program for the next two years through equipment donations for evacuation chairs, outreach materials, handheld signage, CPR training, and two-way radios which totaled over $16,000. SAPD also received a grant by the foundation for a SWAT robot ($24,000), whereby they were also honored at the dedication event. In attendance were SAPD Chief Trevino, SAPD Command Staff and SWAT representatives, Firehouse Subs Corporate Team, and UTSAPD/Emergency Management Staff.

The Firehouse Subs dedication event highlights UTSA’s dedication to public safety, preparedness, and partnership within our community. For more information on emergency preparedness at UTSA, visit the Campus Alerts website at alerts.utsa.edu, send us an email at BePrepared@utsa.edu, or call the UTSA Office of Emergency Management at (210) 458-6851.

Be safe UTSA!

Tobacco Cessation

March 24 – May 5, 2015

UTSA’s Worksite Wellness Program is offering another tobacco cessation for faculty and staff. This program consists of 8 sessions for a total of 7 weeks. Facilitators are trained and certified by the American Lung Association.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the program, please contact Rowdy New U at wellness@utsa.edu.

For more information and registration click here.