Romos host 2010 UTSA Holiday Breakfast

UTSA President Ricardo Romo and his wife, Harriett Romo, professor of sociology and director of the Bank of America Child and Adolescent Policy Research Institute, celebrated the season with faculty, staff and student leaders at the UTSA Holiday Breakfast, held from 9 to 10:30 a.m., Wed., December 1.

The annual gathering was held in the University Center Ballroom, which was transformed into a winter wonderland with red tablecloths, poinsettias, lighted trees and a band playing holiday melodies.

True to San Antonio’s traditional fare, the Romos served delicious chicken and beef tamales, a variety of breakfast tacos, fruit empanadas, quiches, kolaches, fruit and yogurt. Stuffed churros satisfied the sweet tooth.

For the second year in a row, President Romo asked breakfast attendees to donate nonperishables, boxed food and canned food to help the hungry in South Texas. This year, UTSA collected 1,546 pounds of food for the San Antonio Food Bank. Last year, UTSA delivered 1,080 pounds of food to the Food Bank.

View photos from the breakfast in the UTSA Today photo gallery at www.utsa.edu/today.

Student Council Scholarship

Don’t forget about the Staff Council Scholarship!! If you are a benefit-eligible, Classified or A&P employee who is pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree, and enrolled in at least 3 hours, go to http://www.utsa.edu/sc/hscholarship to apply! Staff Council currently gives $250 to one undergraduate and one graduate student each year to help with their tuition.

The deadline is Feb. 15, 2011 so get your application in now!

First Staff Council Staff Appreciation Award

On Tues., December 7, a small group of Staff Council representatives traveled to the downtown campus to award the very first Staff Council Staff Appreciation Award. Deborah Riley, associate bursar with Fiscal Services at the downtown campus, was our first recipient. The Staff Council Staff Appreciation Award is an award given to staff on our campuses that epitomize UTSA’s commitment to student success.

Deb has been with UTSA for 27 years starting as an accounting clerk II and relocating to the downtown campus when it opened in 1997 where she has been ever since. Staff Council chair Cid Gee and Vice Chair Chris Goldsberry traveled downtown to present Deb with the award on the pretense of a meeting with Chris. Deb was moved to tears, expressed overwhelming gratitude for the recognition and wanted everyone to know how special the award is because it comes directly from her fellow staff members.

Congratulations Deb!!

Introducing our 2010-2011 Vice-Chair, Chris Goldsberry

Chris obtained his Bachelor’s Degree in Classical Studies from UTSA in December 2007. While studying in 2007 and into May 2008, he worked as a student grader in the Classics Department. He then joined the Enrollment Services Call Center and in 2008 was promoted to his current position of Financial Aid Outreach Specialist. In his role, Chris is able to reach out to the entire Texas community and teach them that higher education is not financially out of reach, as too many people believe. He feels “fortunate to work with area foster care, unaccompanied and homeless youths who are in desperate need of mentors to encourage them to pursue higher education”. In addition, Chris is a graduate student who enjoys research, cooking, traveling and reading fantasy novels and works of European and Russian history!

What did Chris have to say about Staff Council? He sees his role as one of service. He enjoys promoting the needs of our staff and encourages staff members to voice their opinions and concerns to the Staff Council. Chris offers himself as a contact and venue for staff wanting to present issues either professionally or anonymously.

What is Staff Council?

Staff Council is an advisory body through which eligible staff members may convey information and make recommendations to the President regarding interests, suggestions and concerns. Staff Council serves as the voice of the UTSA staff.

Did you know that Staff Council is 10 years old? Created in 2000, Staff Council is charged by the President and by the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System with the goal of continually improving university operations and the well being of UTSA’s staff.

Every staff area of UTSA has a representative on Staff Council. Members are nominated and elected by their fellow employees to serve two year terms. The members of Staff Council then serve on internal committees which strive to provide service, support and a voice for you, the UTSA staff member. Let’s make this a great year together!

Happy Holidays from your Staff Council!