

THE Faculty & Student Affairs NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
DALLAS

VOL. 5 calendar of events

May 9-15	Finals
May 15	Master's commencement
May 16	Undergraduate commencement
May 18	First day of summer session
May 25	Campus closed for Memorial Day
May 29	Fall 2009 orientation 11 a.m.
June 4	Summer orientation 3 p.m.
June 15-19	RoboCamp for girls and boys
June 26	Fall 2009 orientation 11 a.m.
July 9	Summer orientation 3 p.m.
July 13-15	Advanced robotics workshop
July 27-28	Teacher/Counselor camp
July 31	Fall 2009 orientation 8:30 a.m.

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CAMPUS
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G-Force Mentoring Program

by Gloria B. Bahamon, Assistant Deputy Vice Chancellor

The Dallas Campus G-Force Mentoring Program consists of a series of personal mentoring sessions designed to meet the needs of student in three Dallas ISD high schools: Grady Spruce, Emmet Conrad and the Early College High School at Nolan Estes Plaza.

Texas Education Agency performance data reports for the 2006-2007 school year helped set selection criteria standards: large minority student populations, SAT/ACT scores below the state average, low graduation rates, a large percentage of students characterized as "at risk" and low income and students referred by a guidance counselor. Staff, administrators and counselors from the partner high schools and UNTDC jointly select the students who participate in the program.

Currently, the four UNTDC G-Force mentors are doing an outstanding job serving as positive role models for students and guiding them to learn what they must accomplish to be accepted into and graduate from an institution of higher education. Students learn about admission requirements, selecting a college, financial aid, scholarship opportunities and careers.

I am very proud of our G-Force mentoring team—Toni Lambert, Traci Thompson, Karen Wright, Phyllis Poole and Jahilyn Isacksson. They work an average of 15 hours per week at the partner schools. They perform a needs assessment with each student at initial mentoring meetings; they serve as role models, assist students with a variety of services and are responsible for creating the GO Center in each school.

"G-Force" continued on page 3

Campus adds key staff for transition

The Dallas Campus has filled two more key staff positions on its leadership team to help prepare the school to become an independent university.

Fred K. Dietz has been selected the school's first director of admissions and enrollment management. He currently serves as executive director of enrollment management at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas. He will join the staff May 18.

"Transition" continued on page 5

The King visits Dallas

Students in Rhonda Vincent's Methods of Social Studies and Geography course presented a "mini museum" modeled after the King Tut exhibit to students at Bowie Elementary School April 15.

Twenty-six students were in costume and presented the museum to every class from Pre-K to fifth grade. All of the "artifacts" for their museum were designed and constructed by Vincent's students, who wanted to share the museum experience with children who may not have access to such experiences otherwise.

Vincent said the idea came about last semester when she took a class to the King Tut exhibit. Her students discussed how fortunate they were to live in a metropolitan area with such wonderful cultural offerings. Some of the students mentioned that their public school students might never get to enjoy these experiences. Vincent thought about their comments over the Christmas break.

"Finally, I came up with the idea of bringing the museum to the students," Vincent said. "I thought this was actually a better idea because it would give our university students experience in using available resources to enrich learning within their classrooms. At the start of the semester, I asked the students what they thought, and they really embraced the idea and have taken off in leading the project."

Vincent said the focus of the course is to give students opportunities to apply instructional strategies that are considered "best-practice." Her role is less of a lecturer and more of a facilitator, challenger, questioner and cheerleader. The students worked together to negotiate the requirements of the museum which included group collaboration, creation of group and individual artifacts, research, display, literacy and presentation.

"We began the project by looking at the Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills curriculum to find out what public school students were expected

to learn in social studies. Students condensed that information by working in grade-level groups. As a class, they decided that they could support those curriculum objectives best by presenting Ancient Egypt rather than King Tut because it provided a much broader focus. Then we generated a list of several topics that would align to shared TEKS objectives and narrowed these down to five. The five topics make up the content of the museum," Vincent said.

Students decided which of the five groups they wanted to work in. In March the class visited the King Tut exhibit, paying particular attention to the way the museum was laid out and presented. "We really want to give the students a 'museum experience.' We came back from that field trip with lots of ideas about artifacts, displays and presentation of the museum. One class session was devoted entirely to construction of artifacts, but students have been doing most of it on their own," Vincent said.

"I love Dr. Vincent. She is a big picture person," said student Virginia Evans. "Not only did these kids enjoy it, we learned a life lesson that we'll never forget. We know that we can make something with our own hands and bring it to our own classrooms. We used our own creativity. We had to do the research. I think that the way that she laid it out to us, we owned it right then. She is a great visionary. She's passed that on to us."

"To me, the fascinating thing about this project—from a university instructor's perspective—is that it allows teacher-interns to use skills that are 'real world.' In a few months, they will all be practicing teachers. I've seen them work together, some taking leadership roles, others providing much needed support.

"These are the skills we expect teachers to use. These are also the skills that teachers should let students develop and use," Vincent continued. "The end result, though, has been a richer, more authentic learning experience."



Dallas Campus student Judith Avalos shows Bowie Elementary School students "artifacts" in the mini museum Rhonda Vincent's class created. The museum was modeled after the King Tut exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art.

The News from Professional Studies

by Daniel Friesen, Division Director

Well, it's been a busy month in Professional Studies. Spring really is here, based on the increasing light and heat levels in my office (drop in around 3 p.m. and check it out) and the number of requests for letters of recommendation that I'm receiving from students.

The Professional Studies division is making progress in the interview process for our marketing and information technology hires. It's taken a little longer than originally imagined but, hopefully, the improved match that we get for our efforts will make it all worthwhile.

The other item that has been taking up time is preparing for the presentations on both our existing and planned curricula. Those meetings are being

held in Denton; if you missed the briefing / discussion that we had on this, I've got the PowerPoint slides from the briefing available for your review. I think most everyone had a chance to work on this and I trust that the opportunity to create degree plans was exciting—let me know if you want to do more work in this area. I know that the Division Directors are all appreciative of the faculty's help on this.

On a different note, I've heard good things about our graduate ceremony/reception. Thanks to all who supported and attended.

And that's the news from Professional Studies. Have a good, relaxing break.

"G-Force" continued from page 1

Gloria Bahamon meets with G-Force mentors (l to r) Karen Wright, Bahamon, Toni Lambert, Phyllis Poole and Jahilyn Isacksson.



Assessment and mentoring meetings are held in the GO Center or other private area to ensure students' privacy. They document sessions and help students create a portfolio that tracks their progress.

G-Force mentors receive training to prepare them for this important service. I express my appreciation to Roger Felipe, Rickey Eddie, Todd Gomez and Jessica Recht for helping with their training. If you are interested in assisting with mentor training or presenting to a group of high school students, please e-mail me at gloria.bahamon@unt.edu.

The Office College Readiness is still hiring G-Force mentors. Please encourage students to apply. Successful applicants must be students at the Dallas Campus, have a cumulative GPA of 2.8, be legal permanent residents of the U.S., have excellent communication skills, possess a sincere desire to help students prepare for college, have a working knowledge of Microsoft Office products, demonstrate financial need and have reliable transportation. They also must pass a criminal background check. To apply, contact Jennifer Monroe at ext.3678 or go to www.myintrfase.com/unt_eaglenetwork/student.

CONGRATULATIONS

Assistant Professor of Management Banu Goktan wrote a paper titled, "Environmental Determinism and CEO Pay: The Effect of Green Management Practices on CEO Pay." It has been accepted for presentation at the 2009 Academy of Management annual meeting.

Goktan states, "Green management—an emerging topic among researchers and practitioners—is an environmental factor that is expected to affect an organization's compensation system."

In her study, Goktan compared CEO compensation in green versus non-green states. "The results of this study reveal a significant negative relationship between green management practices and CEO base pay. An increase in green management practices is accompanied by a decrease in CEO base pay."

Student Activities Coordinator John Daniels' article, "The perils of 'adjustment disorder' as a diagnostic category," was published in *The Journal of Humanistic Counseling, Education and Development* (Spring 2009).

In the article, Daniels argues that adjustment disorder is a progression threshold or "slippery slope" from normal psychology to abnormal psychology (mental disorders). He argues that adaptation is really a human specialization—the ability to adjust and adapt to the conditions and changes in life. To arbitrarily decide what is "normal" when it comes to adapting to change, hardship, loss or other circumstance and then labeling someone who doesn't fall into that expectation as having a "disorder" is dangerous and, he also would argue, just plain wrong.

And finally,

A warm welcome back to Constance Lacy and Leora Kemp

Be sure to check out the profile of Leora in the Spring 2009 edition of *New Horizons*.



Campus' first Hispanic scholarship winner honored



Education major Cecilia Orta (r), pictured with Ruth Guevara, became the first Dallas Campus student to win a scholarship from the national Hispanic Scholarship Fund last fall. She and other UNT scholarship winners were honored at a banquet on the Denton campus April 25.

Education major Cecilia Orta became the first Dallas Campus student to win a scholarship from the national Hispanic Scholarship Fund last fall. Orta and other UNT scholarship winners were feted at a banquet on the Denton campus April 25.

When she learned of the scholarship, Orta said, "I was very honored and I felt proud of myself. I thought it was a worthy accomplishment."

She is an interdisciplinary studies major with an emphasis on childhood-through-4th-grade bilingual teacher education and preparation.

Scholarship winners were invited to bring a professor to the banquet that has had the most impact on their education. Orta chose Assistant Professor of Bilingual Education Ruth Guevara.

"I've had at least 3 courses with her, and I think she has been very influential in my preparation to become a teacher," Orta said. "I feel very fortunate to have had her as a professor. I think she's a great example of what an educator should be."

Guevara called Orta an excellent student who goes above and beyond what is expected of her. "She is disciplined, enthusiastic, energetic, creative and a true example of what leadership is in and outside of the classroom. She will certainly carve new paths for the next generation of new bilingual teachers."

Cecilia is president of the Bilingual/ESL Student Organization. She is completing an internship at the John F. Peeler Elementary School in Oak Cliff. She graduates in December.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

by H.D. Stearman, Director of Campus Transition and Accreditation

In the coming months, the UNT Dallas Campus will be full-speed ahead in the process of preparing to apply for accreditation as a degree-granting university independent of the Denton campus. Horace "H.D." Stearman joined the staff March 23 as director of campus transition & accreditation. He is responsible for institutional effectiveness, accreditation, strategic planning, regulatory compliance and faculty training and evaluation.

To help you better understand some of the processes of preparing for accreditation, we will publish excerpts from *The Principles of Accreditation* booklet by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

SACS is a private, nonprofit, voluntary organization that was founded in 1895 in Atlanta. The Association is comprised of the Commission on Colleges, which accredits higher education, degree-granting institutions, and the Council on Accreditation and School Improvement, which accredits elementary, middle and secondary schools.

The Commission and the Council carry out their missions with considerable autonomy. They develop their own standards and procedures and govern themselves through a College Delegate Assembly. This Assembly is comprised of one voting representative—the chief executive officer or the officer's designee—from each member institution. From this group comes the 77-member Commission on Colleges which is responsible for reviewing our application for accreditation.

The Commission on Colleges is required by federal law to review every member institution on a regular basis to ensure that they are in documented compliance with SACS and U.S. Department of Education standards. The federal government recognizes accreditation by the Commission.

Through its periodic reviews of institutions of higher education, the Commission assures the public that it is a reliable authority on the quality of education provided by its member institutions.

In the next article, we will start to look at the accreditation process.

"Transition" continued from page 1

Dietz brings more than 23 years of experience in higher education enrollment management and academic affairs to his position. He earned a master's degree in guidance counseling and administration from Jacksonville University in Florida.

Tina Lee Collins becomes the school's first registrar June 1 and will be responsible for class scheduling and registration. She currently serves as director of records and registration at Southern Illinois University in Evansville. Collins has worked in higher education for 13 years and is pursuing a doctorate in higher education administration from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Price said, "The hires we've made will provide leadership over critical areas of our infrastructure. They will also be responsible for working with our colleagues in Denton to ensure a smooth transition to independence."

Price said the Dallas Campus is also in the process of interviewing candidates to fill 10 new faculty positions.

Dallas Campus hosts RoboCamp 2009

The UNT Computer Science and Engineering Department is sponsoring RoboCamp 2009 to introduce young women and men entering the 8th thru 12th grades to robotics, computer science and engineering.

There is no fee for the camps, but registration is limited to 20 participants. Each participant will receive study materials, a camp T-shirt and other souvenirs from this fun and educational program. For more information, contact David Keathly at dkeathly@cse.unt.edu.

Student organizations on the rise

by Laura Smith, Associate Director of Student Development

As enrollment increases at the Dallas Campus so does the number of student organizations. This past semester marks the largest interest in student groups yet. Tau Sigma holds the distinction of the organization with the most members.

Tau Sigma is a national honor society for transfer students, and the Dallas Campus chapter brought in 92 student members from the Fall 08 semester. Officers were recently elected for the *Tau Sigma* chapter on campus. The officers are: Tanisha Bell, president, Shirley Young, vice president, Barbara Jacobs, treasurer, Dashunda McCowan, secretary, and Guiselle Nunez, historian. After the induction ceremony April 24, the next item of business for the executive committee will be to define a constitution and bylaws, which will be presented to the other members for adoption.

Student Government Association (SGA) is scheduled for Fall 09 elections, as key students (Leon Lewis, Augustine Oboh and Johnathan Sanders) are modifying UNT Denton's SGA foundational documents to our situation here. A general invitation will go out this summer for students interested in campaigning for office in the fall, and meetings will be held to help them flesh out their strategies.

Multicultural Student Club (MSC) is getting its momentum back with a recent interest/recruitment event. The mission of the club is to celebrate the diversity of our campus and provide ways for the student community to grow stronger.

Alpha Phi Sigma (criminal justice honor society) is continuing, with a fund-raiser and community project in its plans. More info: <http://www.alphaphisigma.org/>.

The **Bilingual Education Student Organization (BESO)** has recently replaced a graduating officer and continues to hold regular business meetings and intercampus conferences with BESO in Denton.

The **Stepping Into Success** student organization has been sponsoring a steps class this semester, and Sharon Dickens (founder/president) has a vision for several other types of fitness events/programs for students on campus.

American Humanics is looking for one more officer to complete its executive committee, and the organization is sponsoring a canned food drive during the remainder of the Spring 09 semester. The officers are planning community service events for future semesters as well as fund-raising events on campus.

ROTC will be conducting recruitment events here in the coming semesters, and a few Greek society interest groups are working to get organized.

If you know students who are interested in joining one of the above groups or creating a new student organization on the Dallas Campus, refer them to John Daniels in the Student Development Office (ext. 3640).

Dallas Campus inducts first National Honor Society members

The Dallas Campus held a formal ceremony April 24 to inaugurate its new *Tau Sigma* National Honor Society. Thirty-three students were inducted into the Honor Society in front of their family and friends.

Before the students were inducted, John Daniels, student activities coordinator, had to swear in the society's officers. Graduate student Tanisha Bell, the new society's president, then presided over the induction ceremony. She is in the educational administration program.

Gabriela Acevedo of Grand Prairie became the first UNT Dallas Campus student to be inducted. She is a junior majoring in mathematics with an education certificate.

Fifty-nine other Dallas Campus students also made the honor society.

John Daniels presents a certificate and pin to Gabriela Acevedo of Grand Prairie who became the first Dallas Campus student to be inducted into the Tau Sigma National Honor Society. She is a junior majoring in mathematics with an education certificate.



Wright wins nonprofit leadership scholarship



Karen Wright, a Human Services Management & Leadership major, won an American Humanics NextGen Leaders program scholarship.

Karen Wright, a Human Services Management & Leadership major at the UNT Dallas Campus, has been recognized by the American Humanics (AH) NextGen Leaders program.

The AH Next Generation Nonprofit Leaders program is a national competition that provides scholarships to students conducting internships in the nonprofit sector. Wright entered the competition by writing a paper on why she should be given the scholarship and what her educational and professional plans are.

Her selection means she will receive a \$4,500 scholarship/stipend to intern with a nonprofit organization this summer. Since the program's inception in 2007, a total of nine UNT students have received this scholarship. Wright is the first recipient from the Dallas Campus.

Wright is vice president of the AH student organization and is a member of Tau Sigma Honor Society. She will be a first-generation college graduate. She has been aptly counseled by Constance Lacy, who herself was a first-generation college student and who distinguished herself as UNT's first-ever Harry S. Truman Scholar. Lacy now encourages a new generation of students, as typified by Wright, to reach their potential.

Between spring 2007 and 2012, American Humanics plans to select 1,000 NextGen Leaders who will successfully complete their AH certification requirements and graduate to professional positions in the nonprofit sector. The NextGen Leaders program was made possible through a \$5 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

NextGen's goal is to illustrate the positive effect of competitive internship stipends and scholarships on the recruitment and retention of skilled and diverse next generation nonprofit leaders. Established in 1948, American Humanics prepares college students for professional and leadership positions in the nonprofit industry.

Wright plans to intern with a nonprofit agency that works with at-risk youth.

Universities Center at Dallas

by Berri O'Neal, Executive Director, UCD

The UCD hosted our annual Open House April 21 with more than 200 participants touring the building, enjoying free lunch and visiting with degree advisors, including representatives from the Dallas Campus. It was a huge success.

Our two campuses are now working together in numerous ways, including offering courses and degrees at the UCD so students who actually work or reside closer to downtown Dallas may enjoy taking a portion or all of the courses to earn a degree at the UCD. The UNT System purchased the Universities Center at Dallas building in 2008, and by late summer 2009, the Chancellor's office as well as other System offices will be located on the second floor, which is undergoing a renovation during the next three to four months.

The UCD was established in 1994 as the Dallas Education Center (DEC) in the former Titcher's and then Joske's Department Store building in Downtown. Fifteen years later, the UCD has grown from 23 students in the summer of 1994 to a duplicated enrollment of over 1,000 students in both Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters. UNT Dallas is our latest partner, and by offering students a BAAS degree in Downtown, we are working to expand the degrees that an individual can earn in the evenings.

If you have not had an opportunity to visit the UCD in a few years, stop by and see the changes we've made! With new computer labs and renovated classrooms and study space, the UCD offers space for faculty to make appointments with students, and we have services to proctor exams for students. We look forward to your visit, and we always want to serve you, so if you are needing services on the UCD campus, please contact our office at 214-915-1900.

Professors speak at criminal justice conference

by Tiffiney Barfield-Cottledge, assistant professor of criminal justice

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences is a major, national-level conference for criminal justice, criminology and associated fields. This venue serves as the communication hub for cutting-edge research topics and tests of theory that increase understanding of crime on local, national and international levels.

Gretchen Choe, Eric Coleman and I had the pleasure of attending the ACJS in Boston over spring break. I attended several panels that dealt with the future of criminal justice education and whether or not on-line degrees were acceptable degrees for teaching professionals in criminal justice. This appears to be a hot topic.

Colleagues presented research on international crime and comparisons with crime rates in the U.S., specifically in areas affecting future policy

implications. The panel I chaired dealt with female crime rates where examinations and comparisons of crime rates—particularly serious and violent trends—were presented as well as current trends found in alternative relationships.

Gaining the knowledge of current trends and knowing what's going on in the field is crucial in the teaching of our future graduates. Ethical issues, research concerns, policy implications and studied relationships on crime are all worth sharing to ensure the continued practice of professionalism.



The division directors and academic advisors “meet and eat” to evaluate and fine tune the degree programs to be offered by UNT Dallas in 2010. Pictured are (l to r) advisors Natasha Waters, Ashley Newkirk, Elizabeth Onderko and Janeeka Bills, faculty member Daniel Friesen, advisor Kimberly Moore and faculty member Barb Altman.

The Faculty and Student Affairs Newsletter is published periodically by the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor and produced by the Office of Marketing, News and Information. Ideas and story leads are welcomed.